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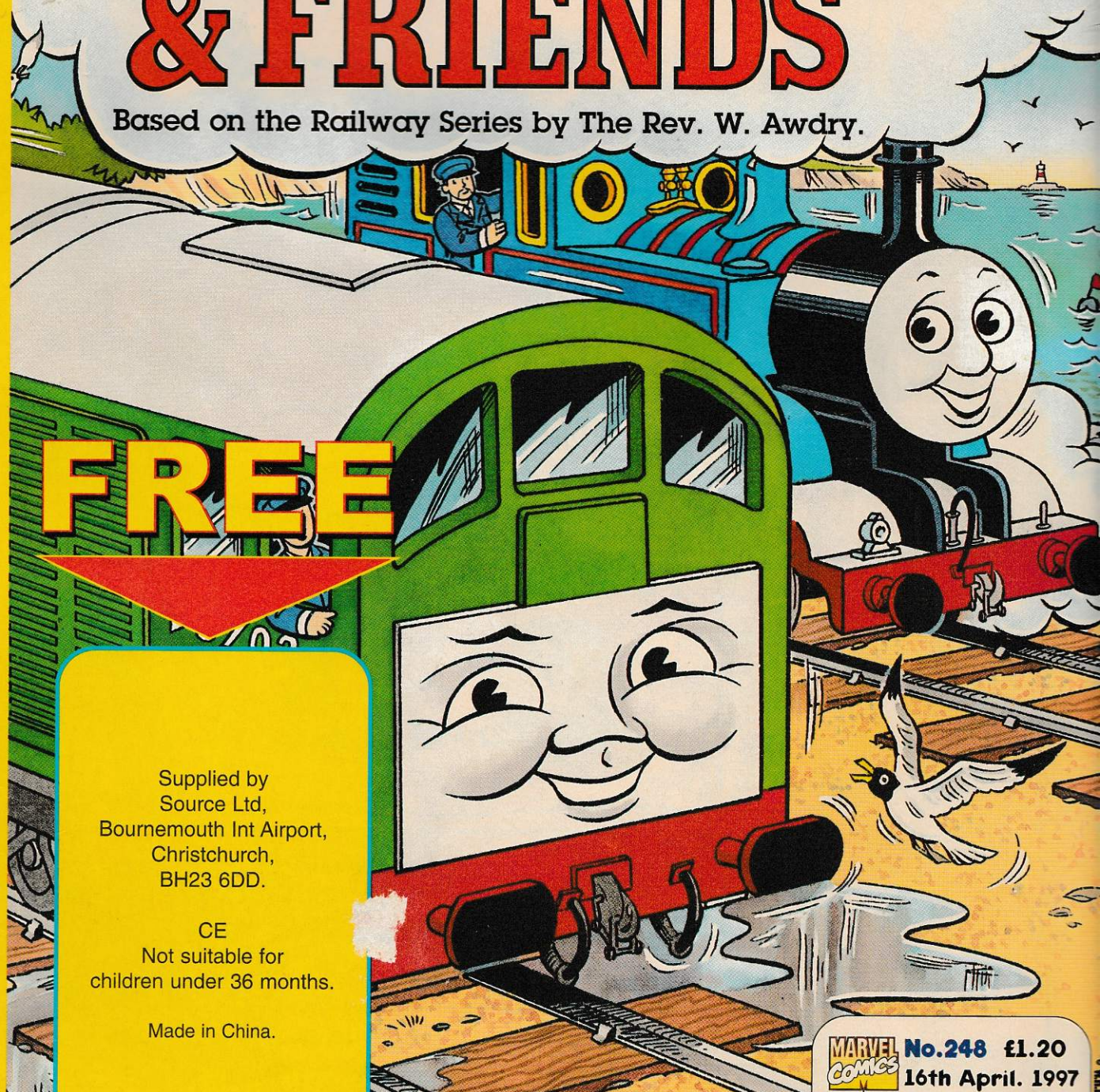
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

PEEP PEEP! FROM THOMAS!

MARVEL COMICS No.248 £1.20
16th April. 1997
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Stories · Games · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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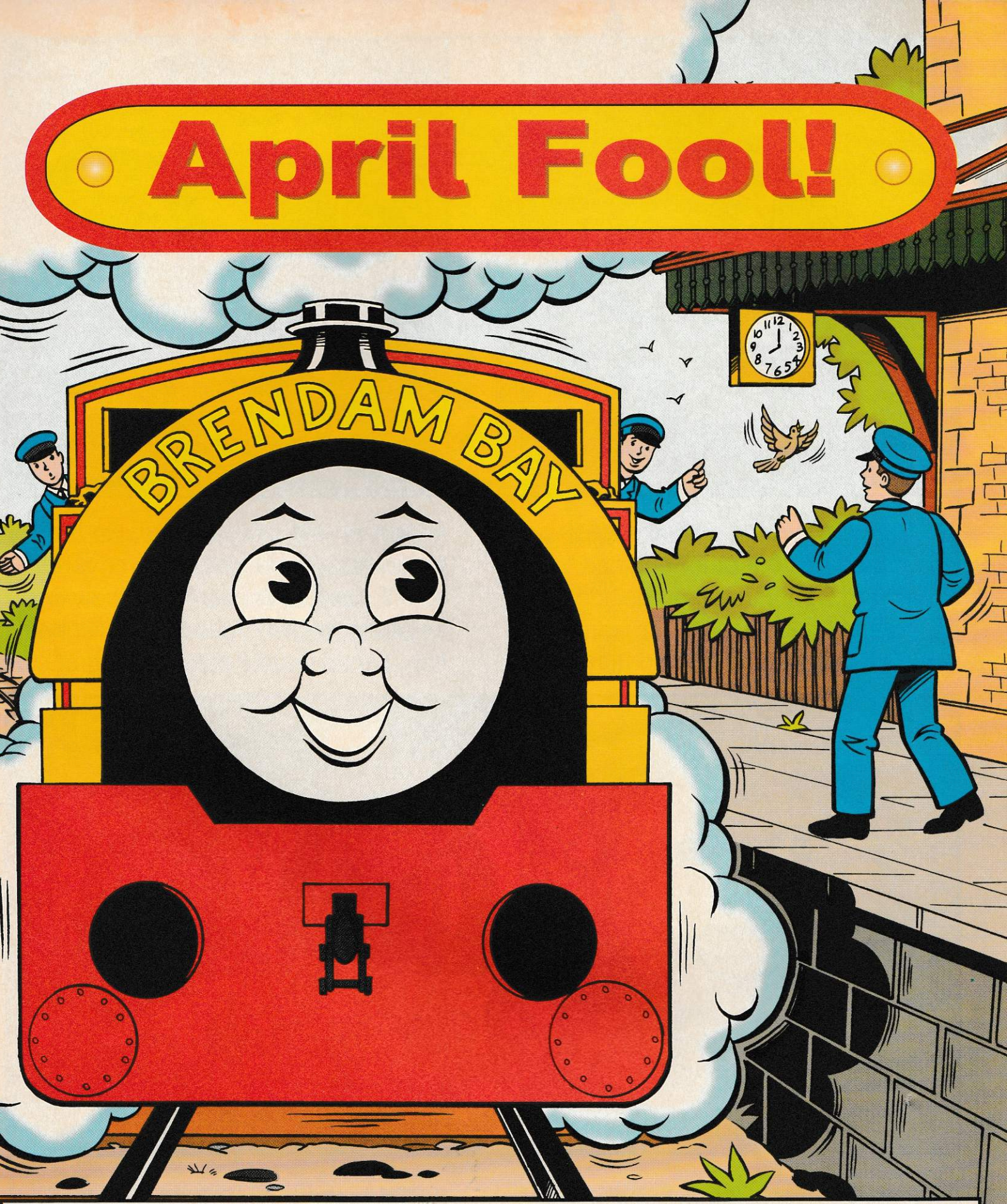
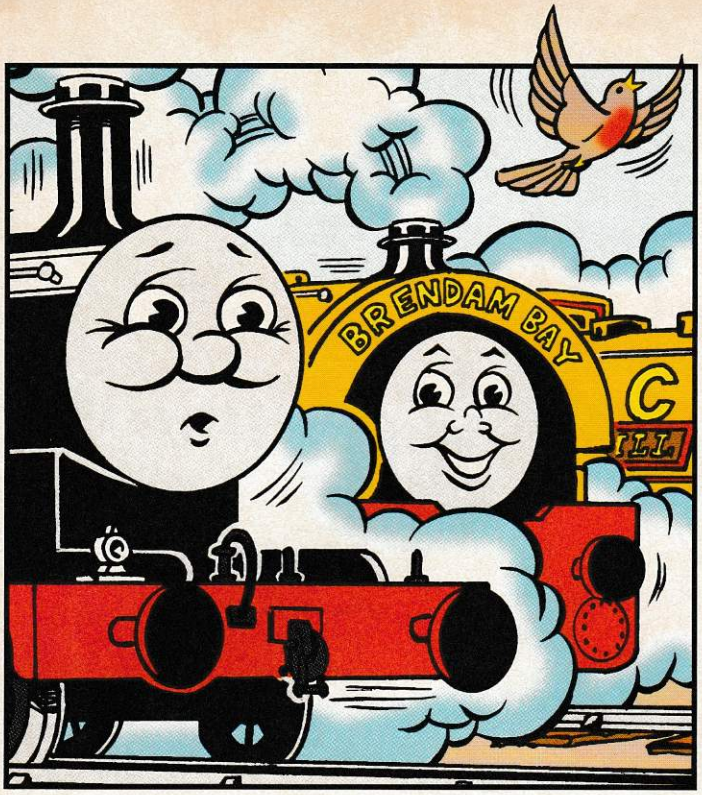
April Fool!

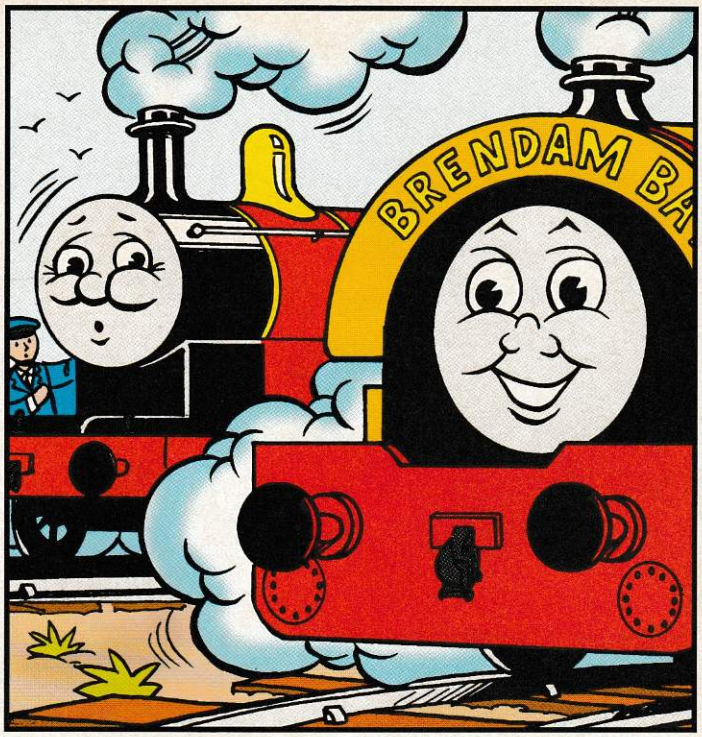


1. One day, Bill's driver came hurrying into the station. "Oh dear, it's 8 o'clock! I'm late. My watch must be slow," he said, glancing up at the station clock. "Come on, Bill. We'd better hurry!"

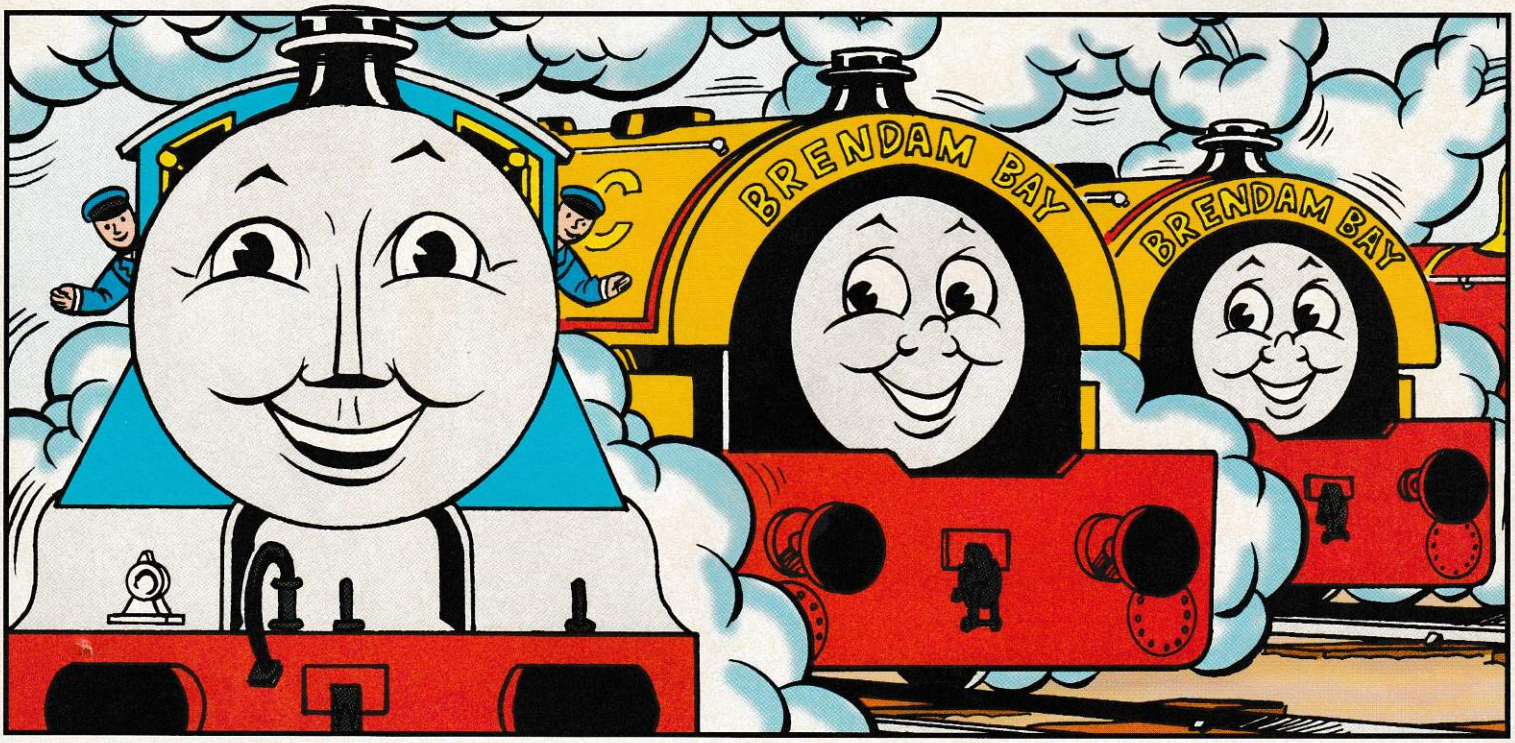
2. Then Ben's driver started laughing. "April fool!" he grinned. "I turned the clock forward half an hour to trick you!" Bill's driver laughed too. "I forgot it was April Fool's day!" he said.



3. "Why don't we play some April Fool's tricks on the other engines," suggested Ben. First, they decided to play a trick on James. "Your paint work is scratched," they told him.

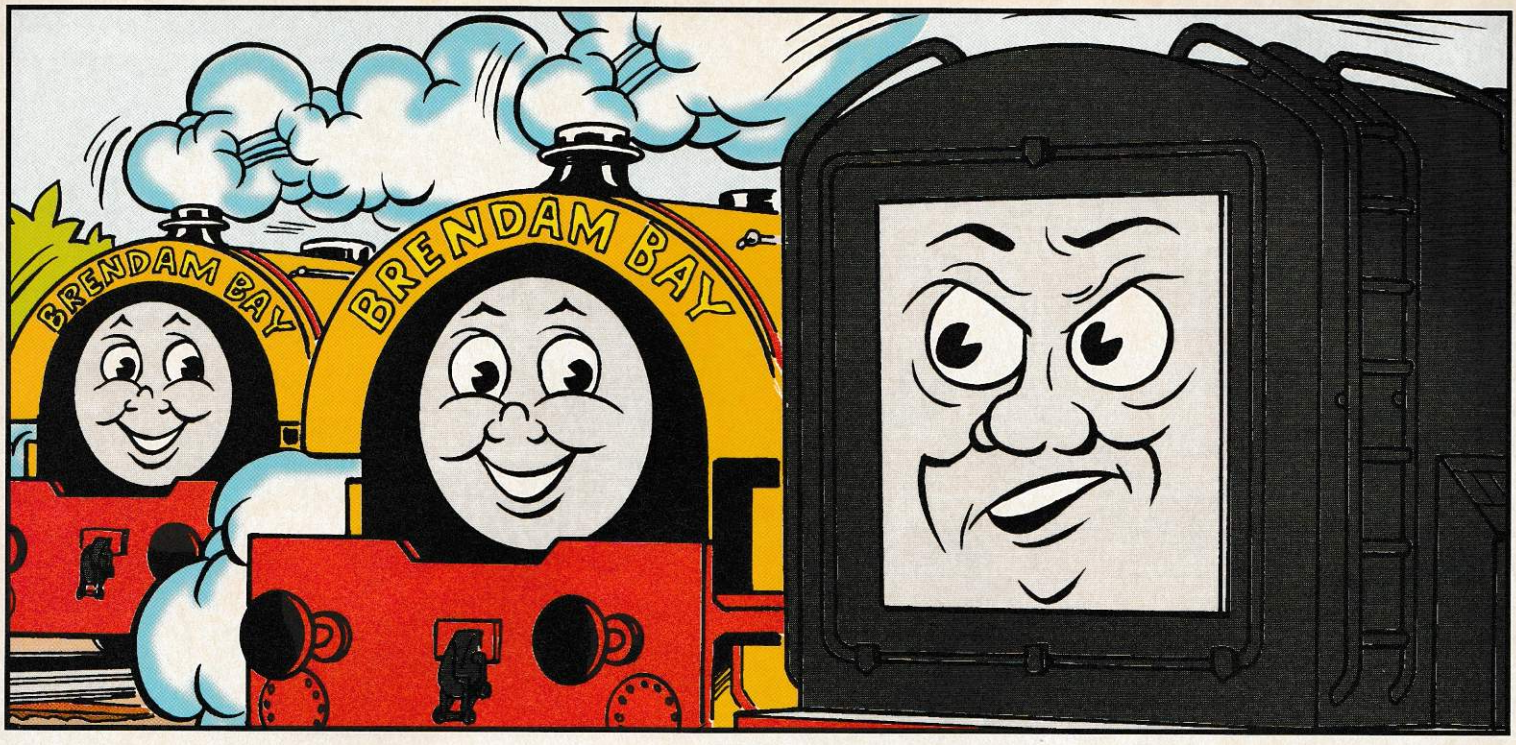


4. James was very worried. He liked to look smart. He called his driver over to look at the scratch. The twins began to giggle. "April Fool!" laughed Bill. James wasn't very pleased at all!



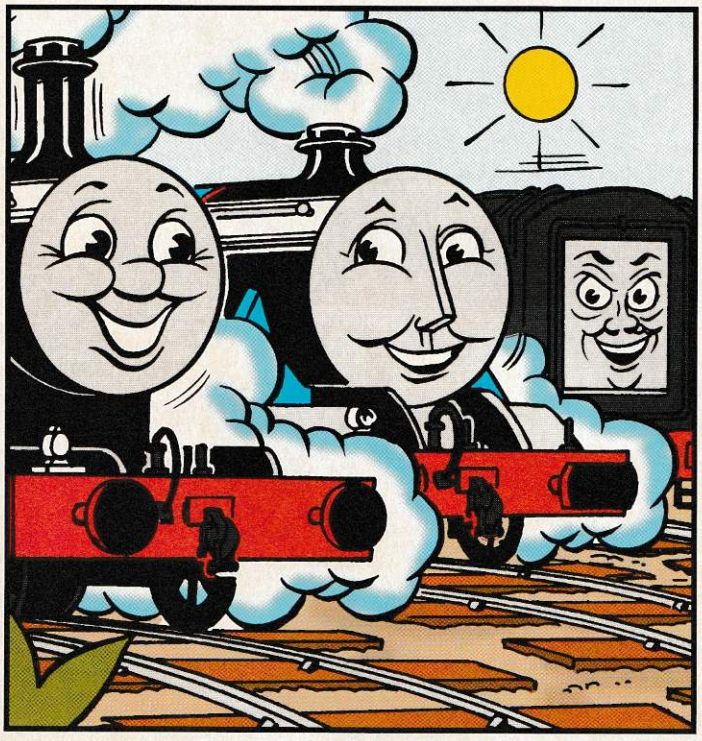
5. Next, the mischievous twins decided to play a trick on Gordon. "The Fat Controller said you have to pick up some important passengers from the Harbour," they told him.

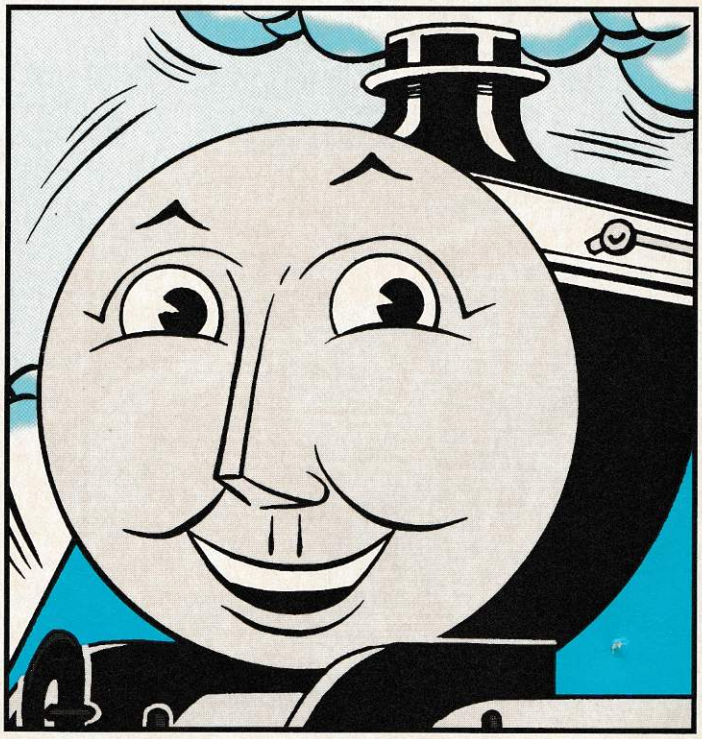
6. "I'd better hurry," Gordon puffed, as he set off to the Harbour. But he found no one waiting there. "April Fool!" laughed Bill and Ben when he came back. Gordon was very annoyed!



7. Bill and Ben played tricks on the other engines all day. Everyone was getting very annoyed with them. They even tricked Diesel. "Your wheel is wobbling," they told him.

8. Diesel was scared to go too fast in case his wheel came off. He was late back to the station. "I'm fed up with those pesky twins!" he said, when he realised that he'd been tricked!





9. "I think it's time we played a trick on Bill and Ben," James told everybody. "Here's what we'll do!" Later that day, the twins overheard Gordon and James whispering to each other, excitedly.

10. "Don't tell the others," whispered Gordon. "But a famous writer is coming to watch us work tomorrow. He's writing a book about trains and wants one of us to be one of the main characters."

11. "I do hope he chooses me," said James. Bill and Ben agreed, they wanted to be in the book too. So, the next day, they worked really hard - much harder than usual!

12. They worked so hard they were sweating and boiling. "I hope the writer is watching us!" puffed Bill. "So do I," panted Ben. The Fat Controller was very pleased with them both.

13. "You've worked really hard today. Well done both of you!" he said. "I'm sure that we'll be in the book now," Bill said, as the Fat Controller left. The engines began to laugh.

14. "April Fool!" shouted Gordon. "We tricked you!" Bill and Ben were cross. "Serves you right!" said James. "At least you've been too busy working to play any more tricks on us!"

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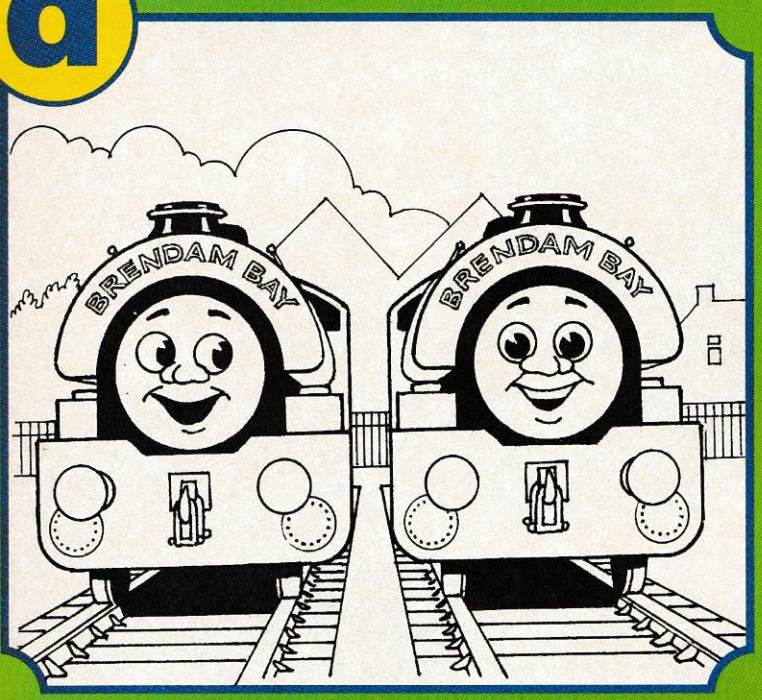
Odd one out!

Look carefully at the pictures below, as the twins are playing a game. Which one is the odd one out, and which three are the same?

a



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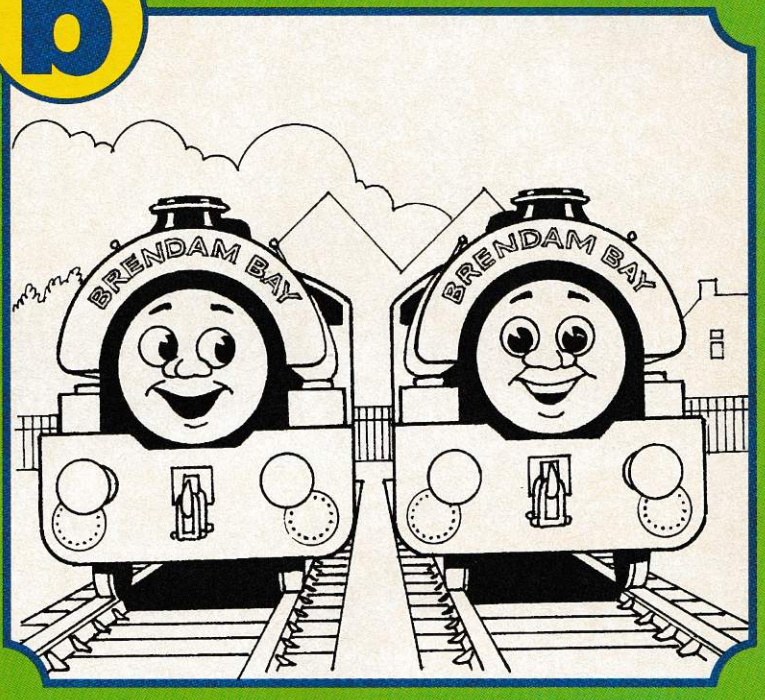

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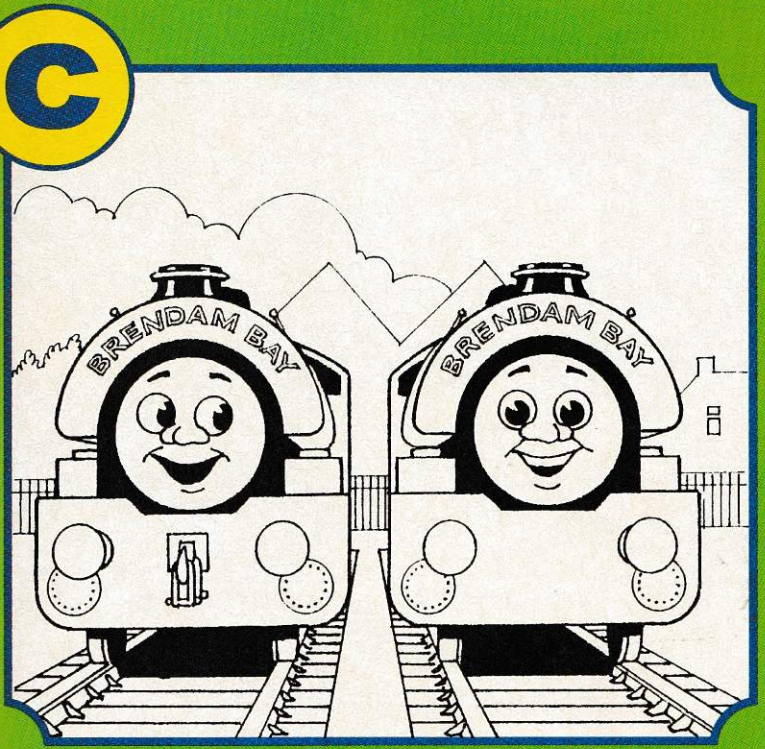

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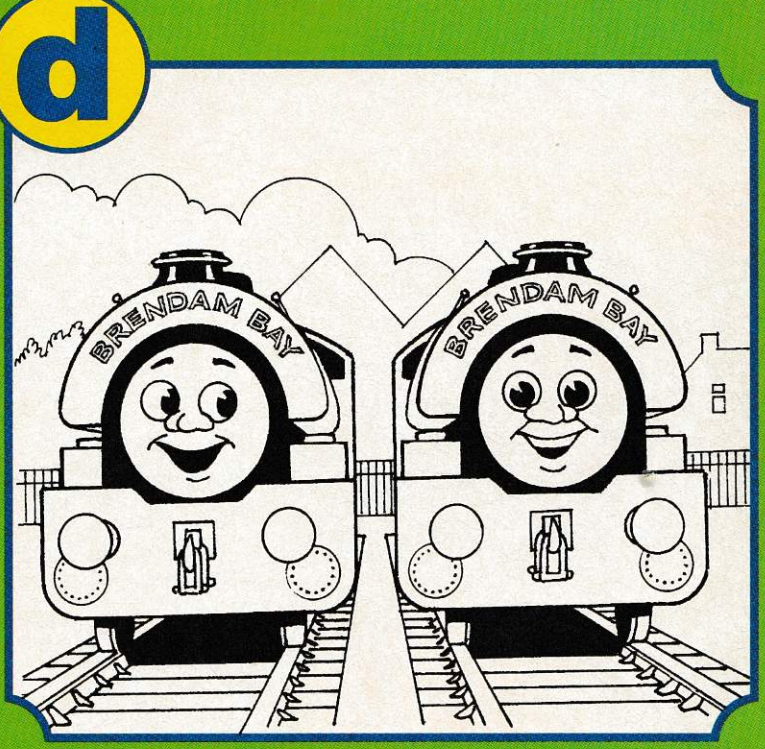


Answer: Picture c is the odd one out because Ben has no coupling hook!

Keeping Dry!

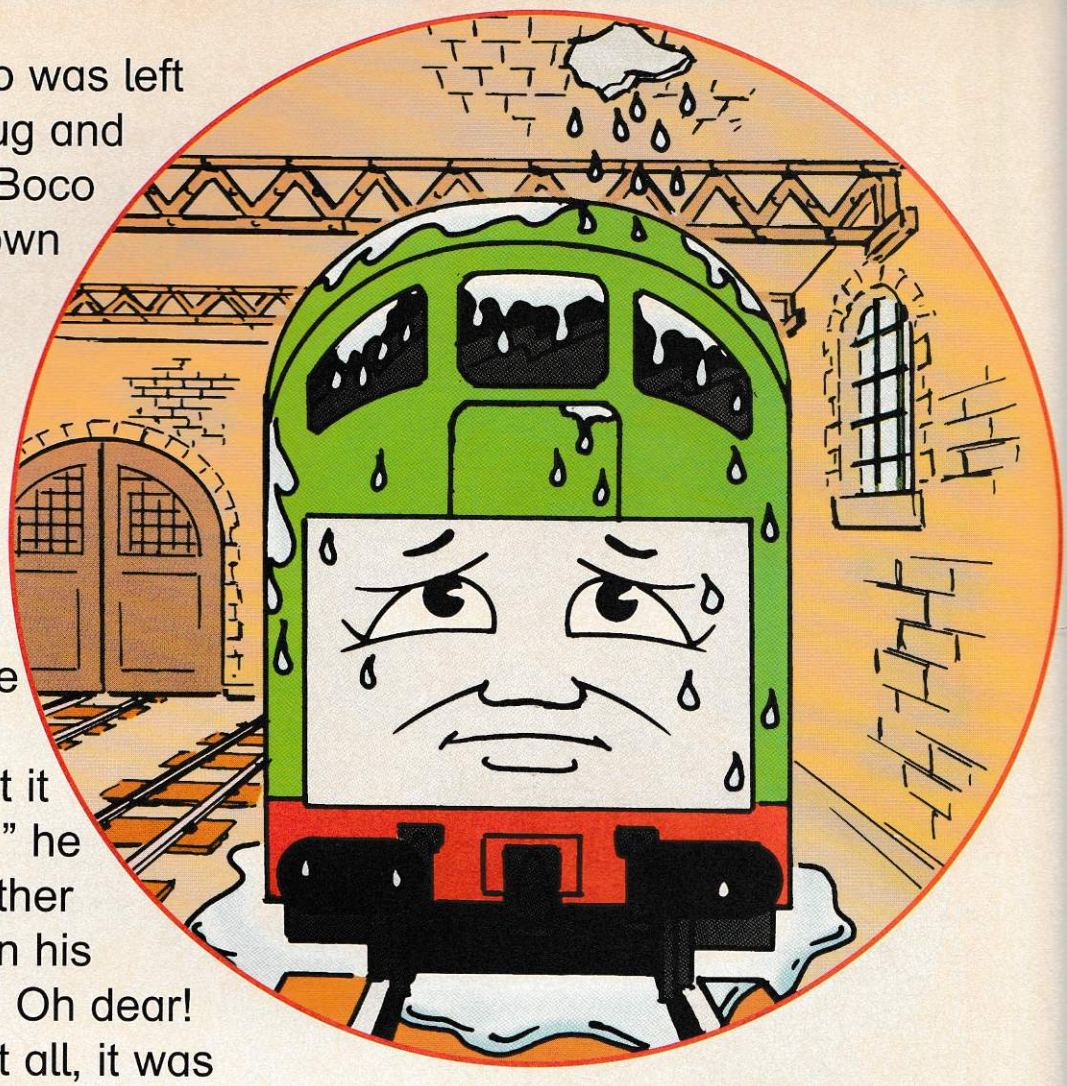
It had been raining all night and it was still raining when it was time for the engines to start work early the next morning. "Oh dear, I don't fancy going out in this rain," sighed Thomas. "Neither do I," added James. "My smart, red paintwork is going to get soaking wet!" "Well, we can't leave our passengers waiting at the station, can we?" said Gordon. "So rain or no rain, we'll have to work."

Then the Fat Controller came in. "We're doing some urgent repairs on the track so you won't be working today," he told Boco.

Boco was delighted. "I'll be here nice and dry while the rest of you get wet!" he grinned. "You lucky thing!" said Thomas.

One by one, the other engines went out

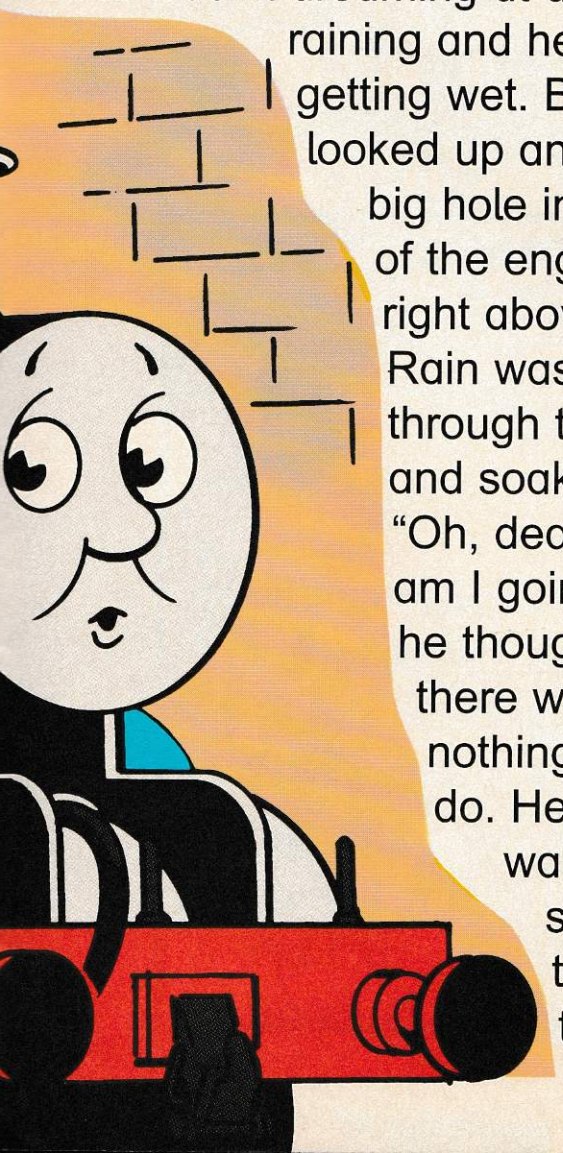
into the rain until Boco was left alone in the shed, snug and dry! "This is the life," Boco murmured, settling down for a nice snooze. He was having a lovely dream about puffing along on a bright summer's day when drip, drip, drip - big, wet drops plopped onto his roof and woke him up. "Goodness, I must have dreamt that it was beginning to rain," he said. Then plop! Another big wet drop landed on his bonnet. Then another. Oh dear! He wasn't dreaming at all, it was raining and he was getting wet. Boco looked up and saw a big hole in the roof of the engine shed, right above him. Rain was pouring through the hole and soaking him. "Oh, dear, what am I going to do?" he thought. But there was nothing he could do. He had to wait for someone to return to the shed and discover the hole. And, as long as the others were out working, that could be a long time!

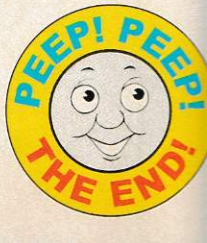


By the time the other engines returned, it had finally stopped raining but Boco was wringing wet, standing in a pool of water.

"Goodness, the shed roof is leaking," said Thomas' driver. He hurried off to tell the Fat Controller so that the roof could be mended straight away.

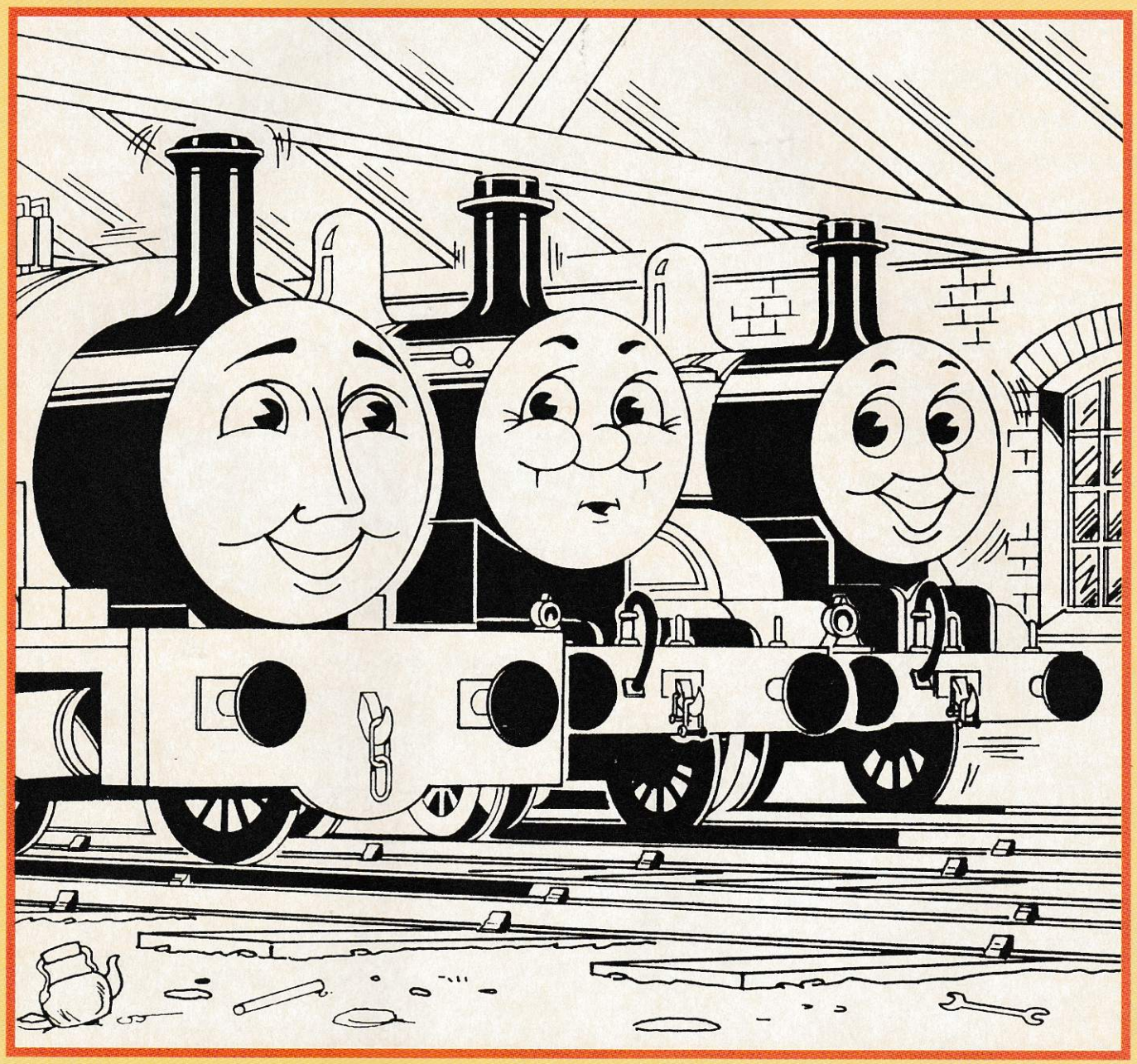
"You'd have been better off working today, Boco," chuckled Thomas, cheekily. "It looks like you got wetter in the shed!" Boco just sniffed. "I think I've caught a cold," he said, sulkily.





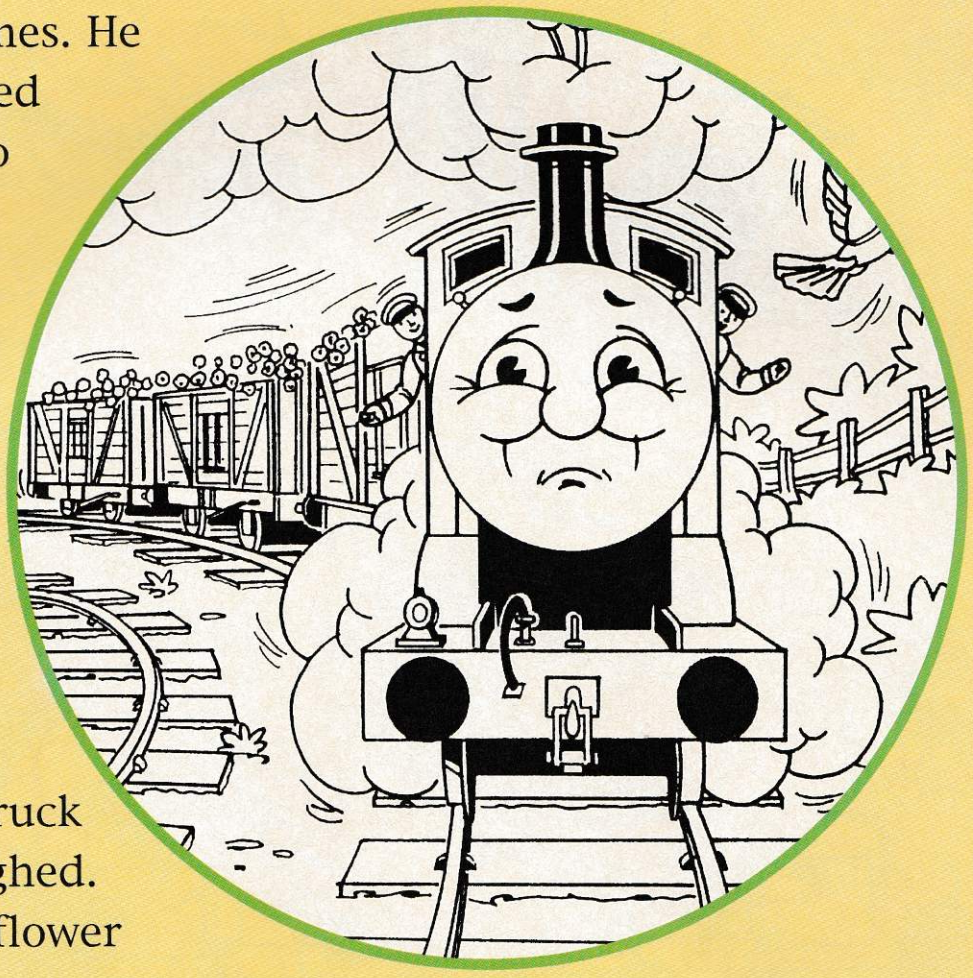
A read & colour story

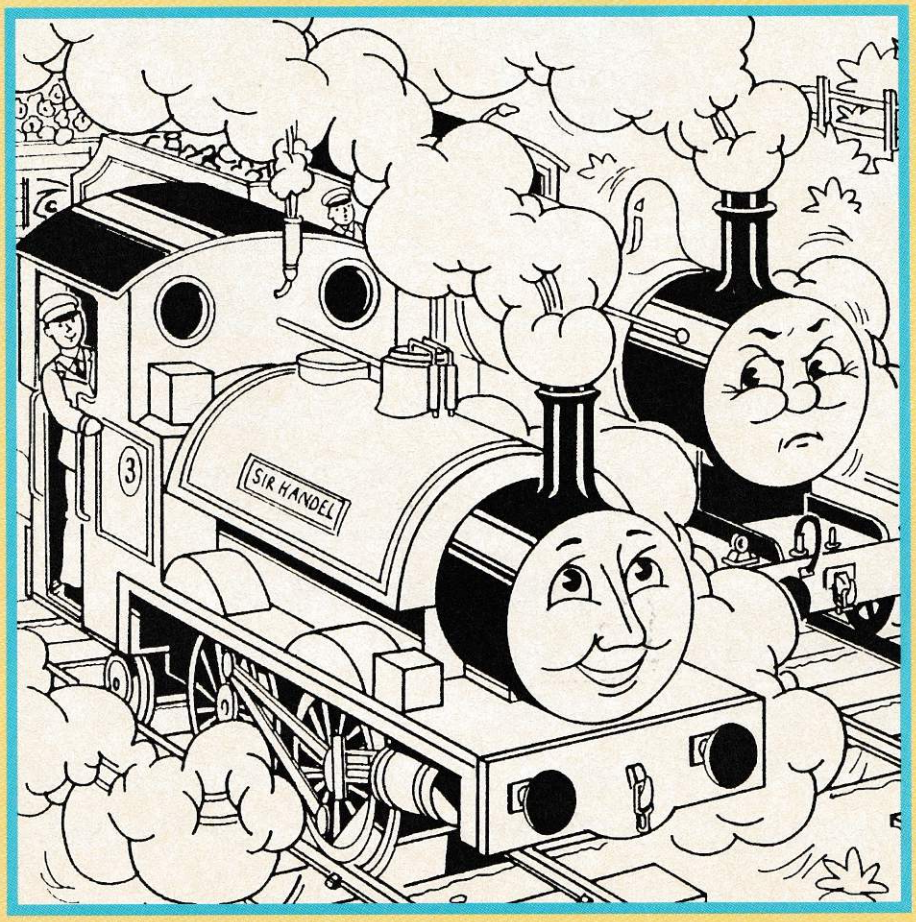
The Flower Train!



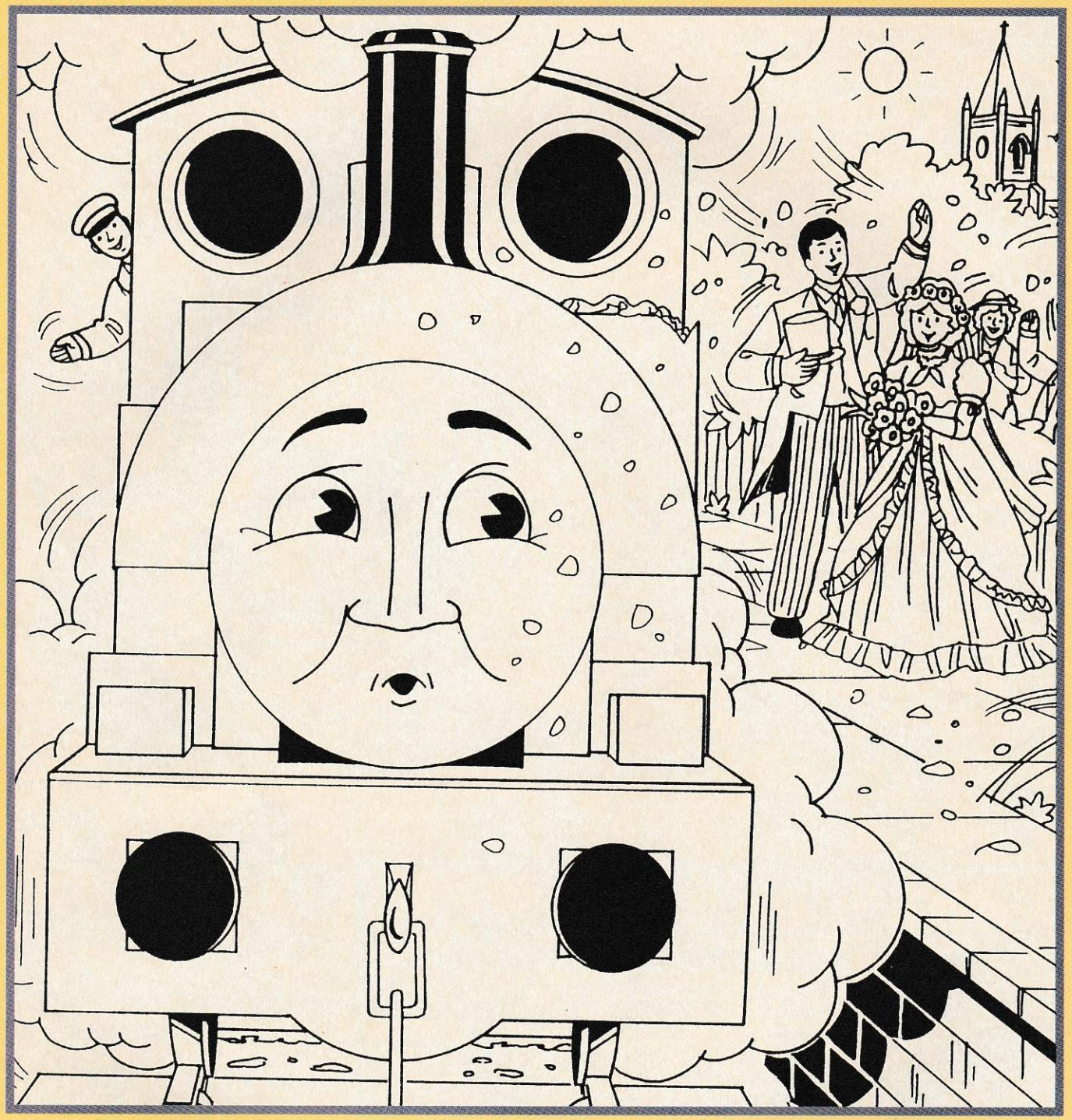
1 Sir Handel was feeling pleased with himself. He had a very important job to do. The Mayor's daughter was getting married. She was going to the Mainland for her honeymoon. Sir Handel had to take the newlyweds to the harbour in time to catch the ferry. "There will be lots of important people at the wedding," he boasted. "That's why the Fat Controller chose an experienced engine like me!" The other engines couldn't help feeling a bit envious!

2 Especially James. He wasn't very pleased because he had to deliver some flowers to the market today. "I'm much too smart and important to deliver flowers," he grumbled to his driver. When Sir Handel saw James pulling a truck of flowers he laughed. "Here comes the flower train!" he teased.

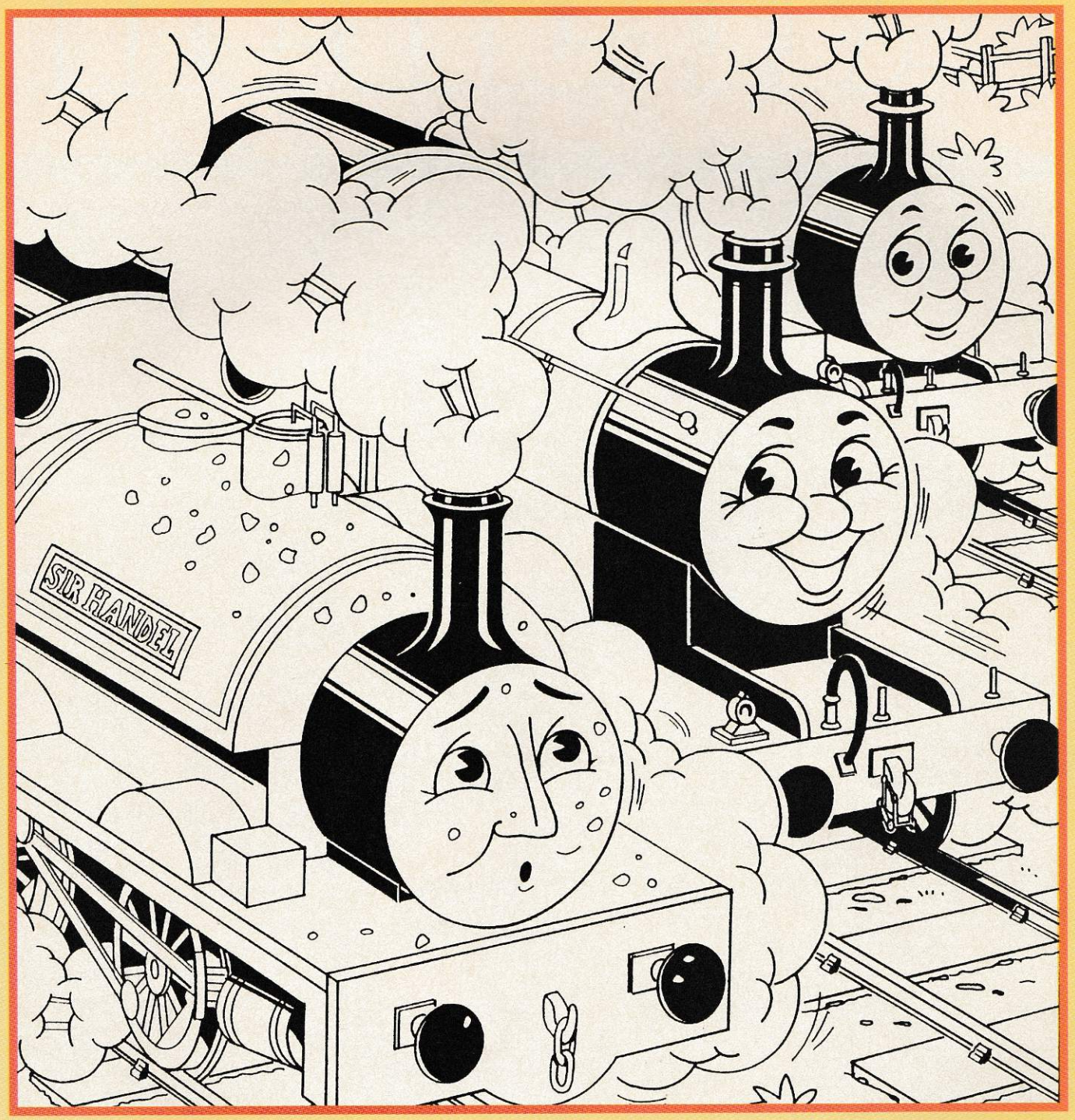




3 That made James even crosser. He glared angrily at Sir Handel who didn't care. Sir Handel blew his whistle, cheekily, as he puffed past and hurried along the track to the church. The bride and groom were just coming out of the church when Sir Handel arrived.



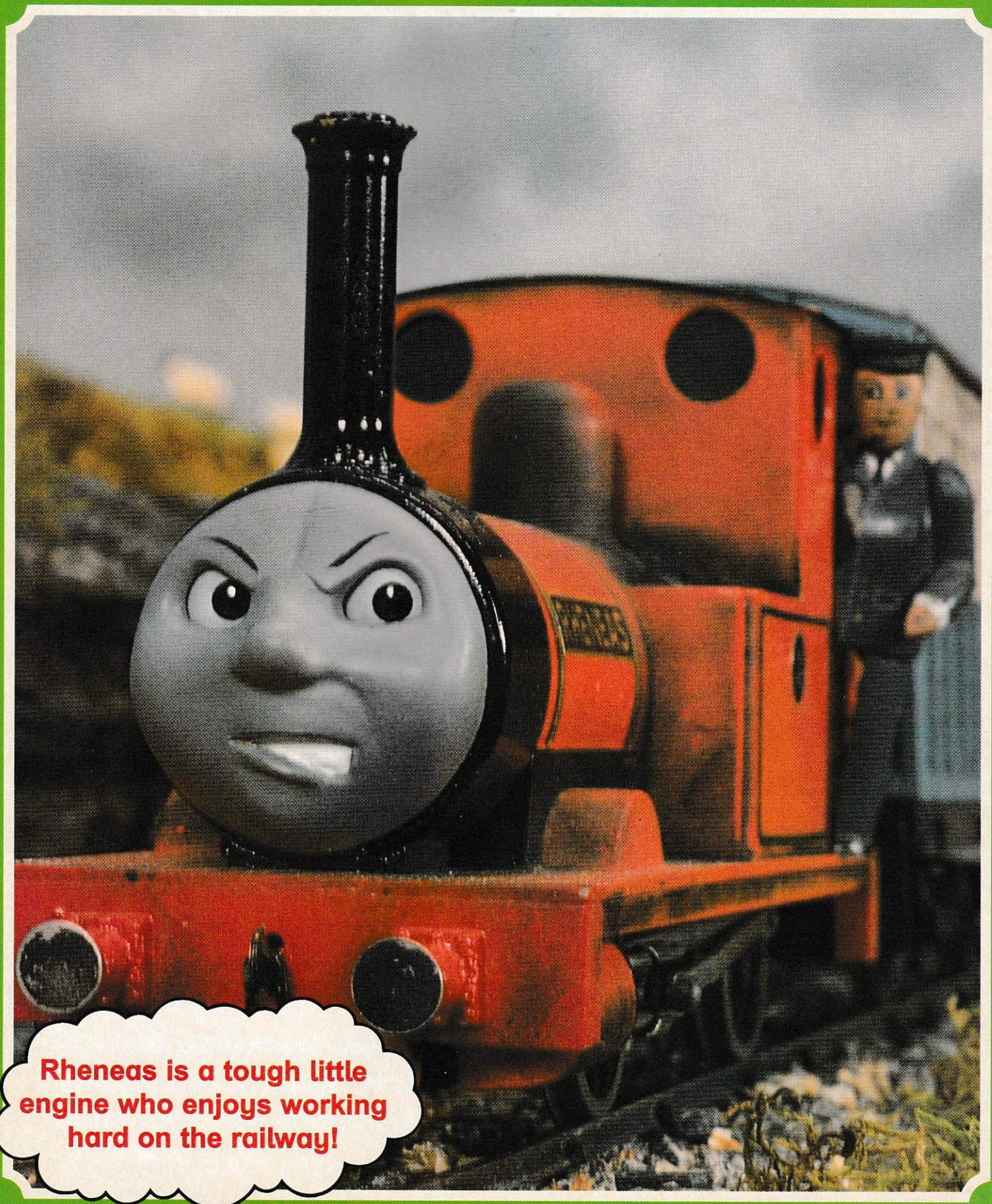
4 The bride looked lovely in a long white dress and the guests looked very smart indeed. Outside, the guests threw bits of coloured paper and rose petals over the couple. "How strange," said Sir Handel. "What are they doing?" "It's a tradition," his driver said. "People always throw confetti over the bride and groom for good luck!" As they boarded the train the petals went everywhere. Sir Handel set off merrily to the harbour, looking very proud.



5 On the way, he saw James, who had delivered his flowers and was now on his way back. "Peep! Peep!" whistled Sir Handel, puffing along. But James was laughing at him! He was still covered in rose petals! "Don't you look pretty!" teased Percy, who was nearby. "Who's a flower train now?" chuckled James. Sir Handel was so cross he asked his driver to clean him right away! Next time an engine had to deliver flowers, he decided to keep his mouth firmly shut!

The end

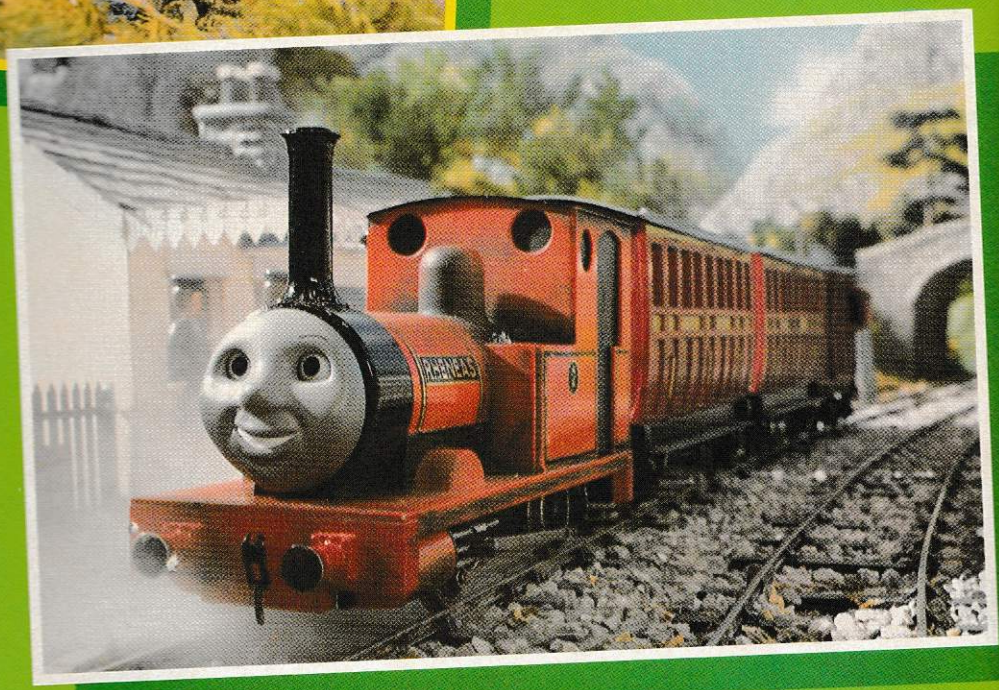
All about



Rheneas is a tough little engine who enjoys working hard on the railway!

Rheneas!

He is quite an old engine and often breaks down - which he hates!

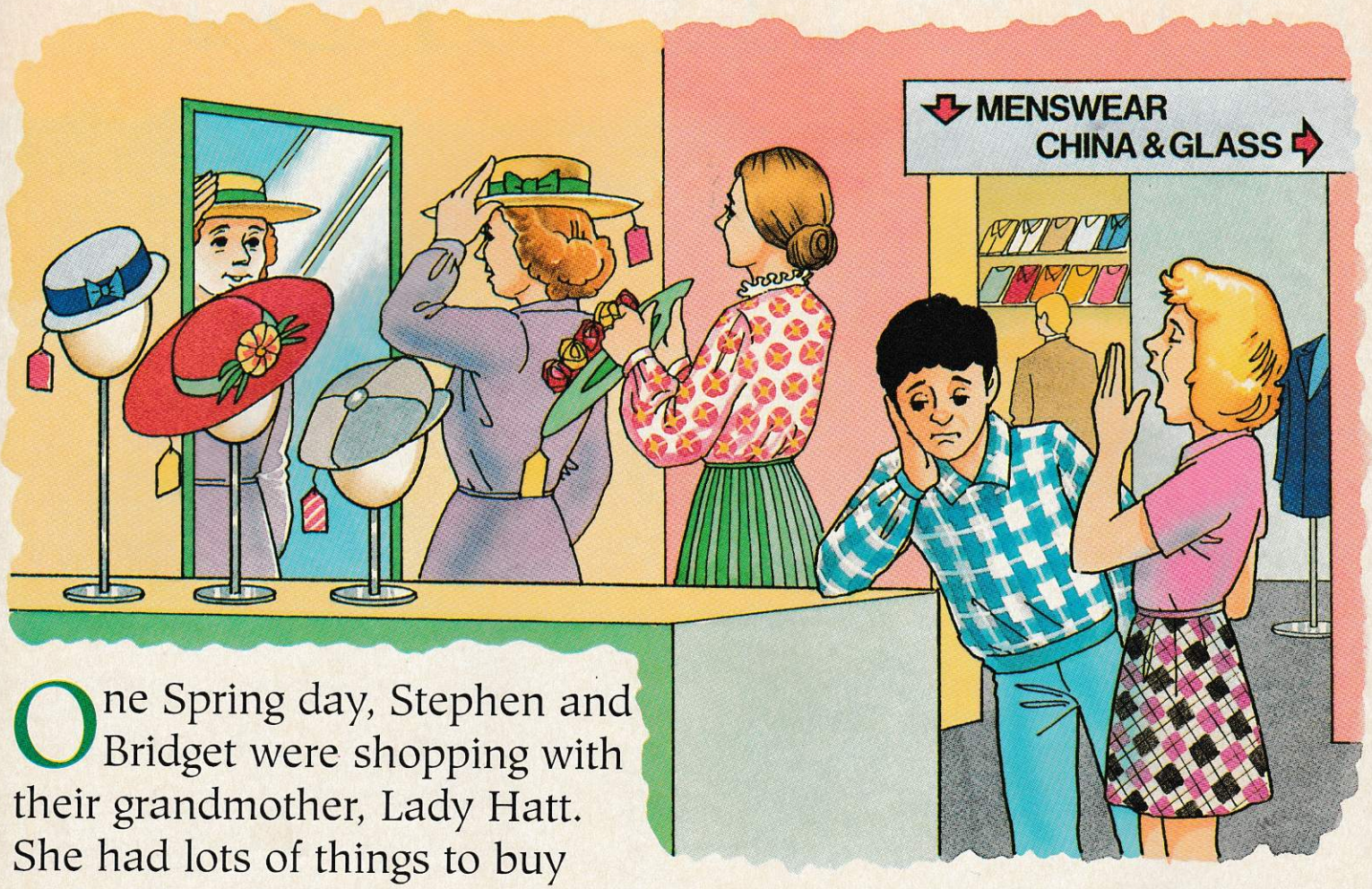


Rheneas cares about his passengers and is respected by everyone who knows him!

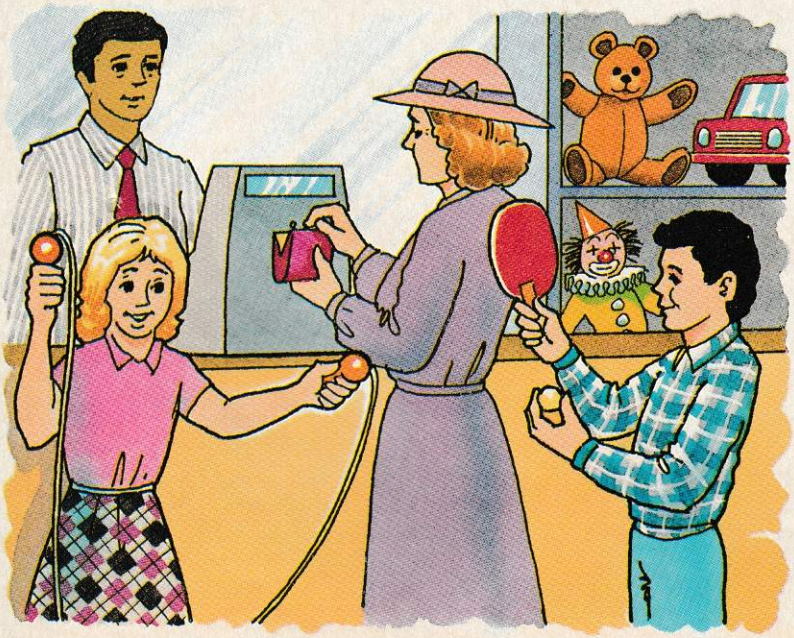
Win a model Rheneas!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model of Rheneas from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/248 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Closing date: April 23rd, 1997. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Rheneas!

The Daisy Chain



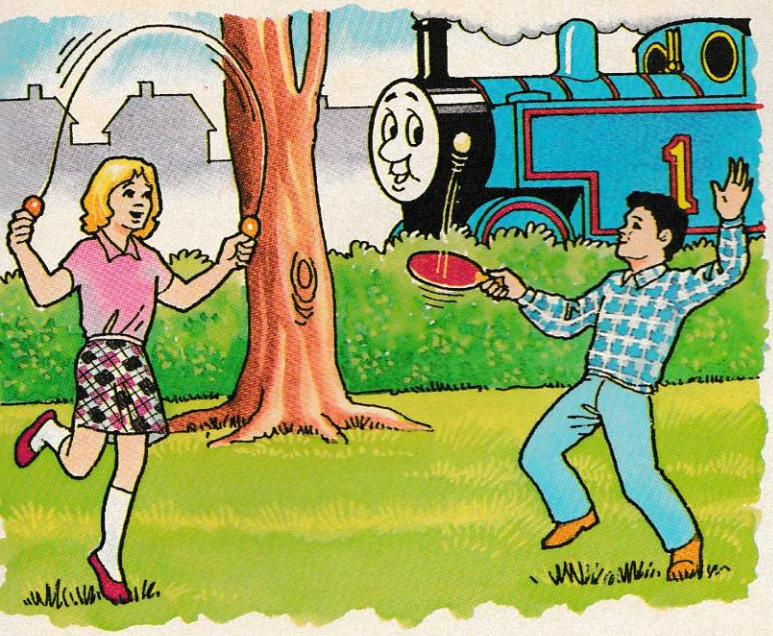
One Spring day, Stephen and Bridget were shopping with their grandmother, Lady Hatt. She had lots of things to buy and, although the two children were very tired, they tried not to moan! Lady Hatt was very pleased with them. "I think you both deserve a present for being so good," she said, taking them



to the toy department. Stephen and Bridget were pleased. Stephen chose a bat and ball set and Bridget chose a brightly coloured skipping rope.

As soon as they got home, Stephen and Bridget went out to play in the garden.

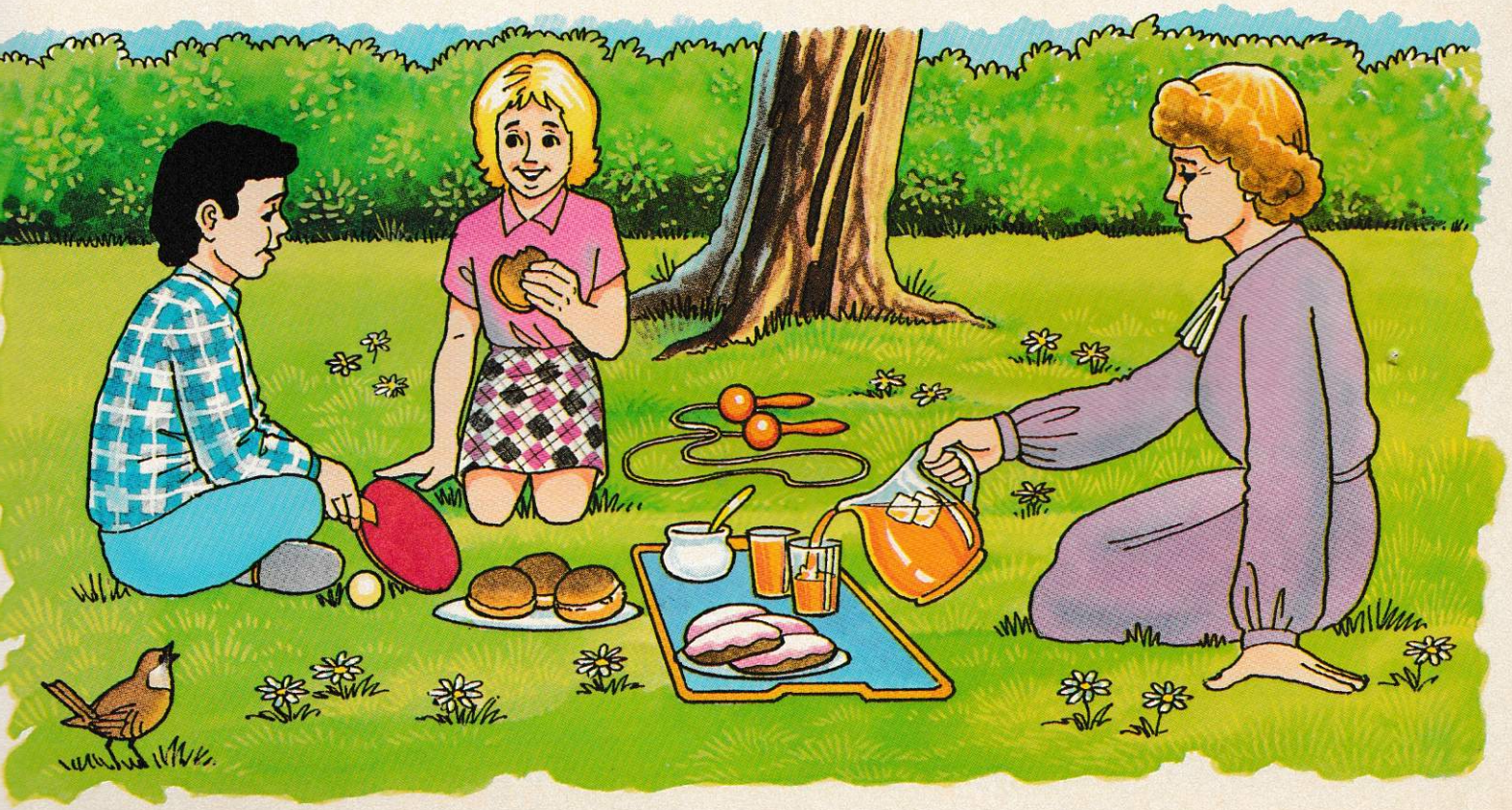
When Thomas puffed past a little while later, they ran to show him their new toys. "They're lovely," said Thomas. "It's nice getting presents." "Thomas is always Useful, he deserves a present too!" said Bridget, thoughtfully, as the little engine chugged off along the



track. "Yes, why don't *we* give him a present?" suggested Stephen. "Good idea, but what sort of present?" asked Bridget. They thought and thought but they still couldn't think of anything to give Thomas.

They were still thinking about it, when Lady Hatt came out with a tray of food. "It's such a nice day I thought we could have lunch outside," she said. "That's a super idea!" said Bridget, excitedly. "We can have a picnic!" Lady Hatt had put all sorts of delicious things on the tray including cheese rolls, iced buns and fresh fruit juice.

It was a lovely picnic. "I'm so full I couldn't eat another crumb," said Stephen, lying down on the grass. "Be careful, you're squashing the daisies," said Bridget, pointing to the pretty white and yellow flowers that were scattered all over the grass. "When I was a young girl we used to make chains with daisies," said Lady Hatt. "Look, I'll show you." She picked some daisies and showed Bridget how to link them together to make a necklace. "It's lovely. Thank



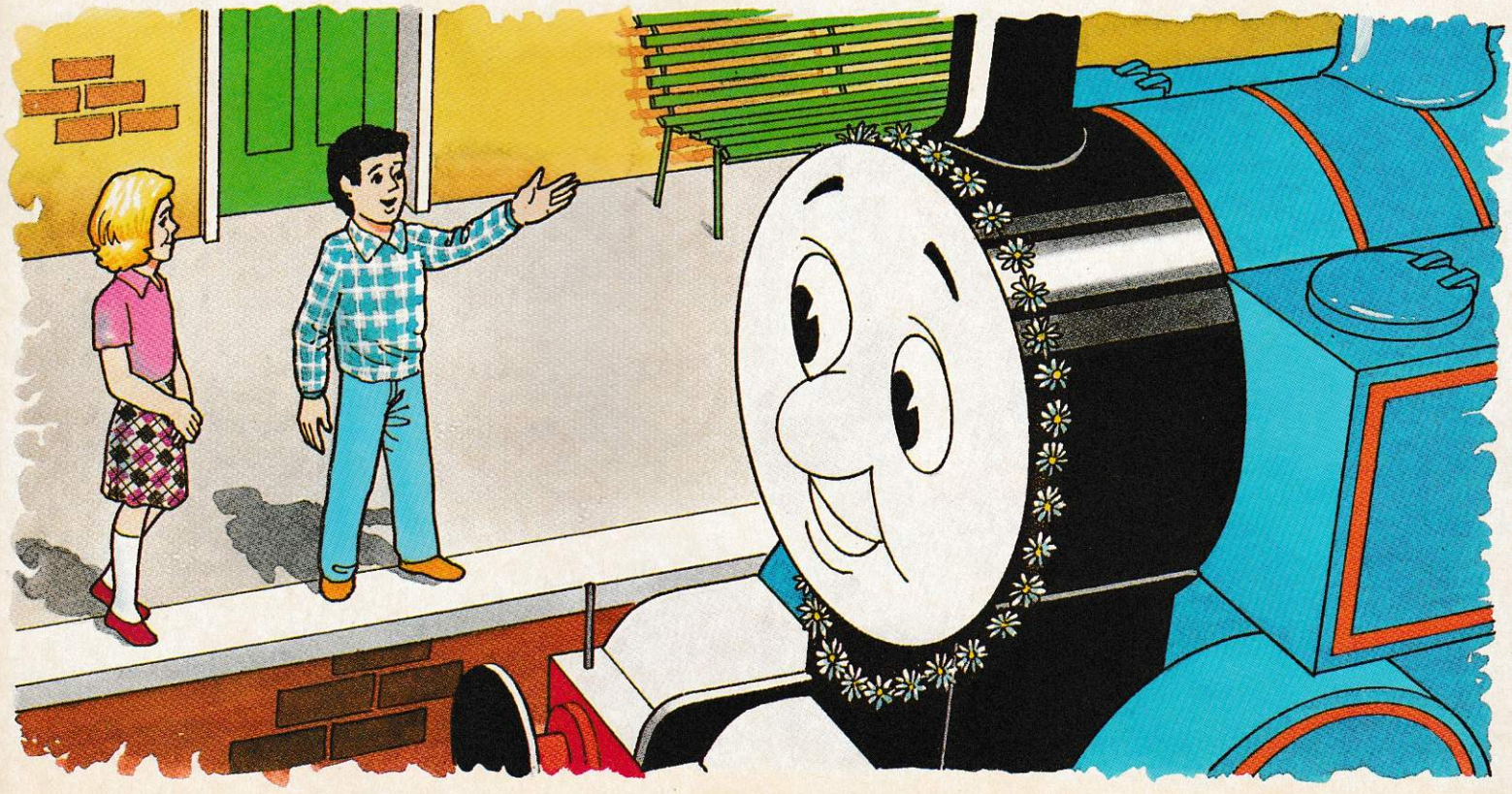
you," said Bridget, putting the daisy chain around her neck. Stephen liked it too so he made himself a daisy crown. "Now I'm a Daisy King!" he grinned.

Suddenly, Bridget smiled. "I know what present we can give to Thomas," she said. "A daisy chain!" Stephen thought it was a good idea so they carefully made a very long daisy chain. They took it to the station and soon Thomas puffed in. "More presents!" he said, when he saw Bridget's daisy necklace and Stephen's daisy crown. "What lucky children you are!" "You're lucky too," said Bridget. "We've got a present for you."

Thomas' driver helped the children drape the long and delicate daisy chain over the little tank engine. "There you are, your very own daisy chain," smiled Bridget. Thomas was very pleased. "Thank you," he said.

Later, in the engine shed he showed the other engines his present. "Unexpected presents are definitely the nicest!" said Thomas and everyone agreed!

The End



Dot to dot!

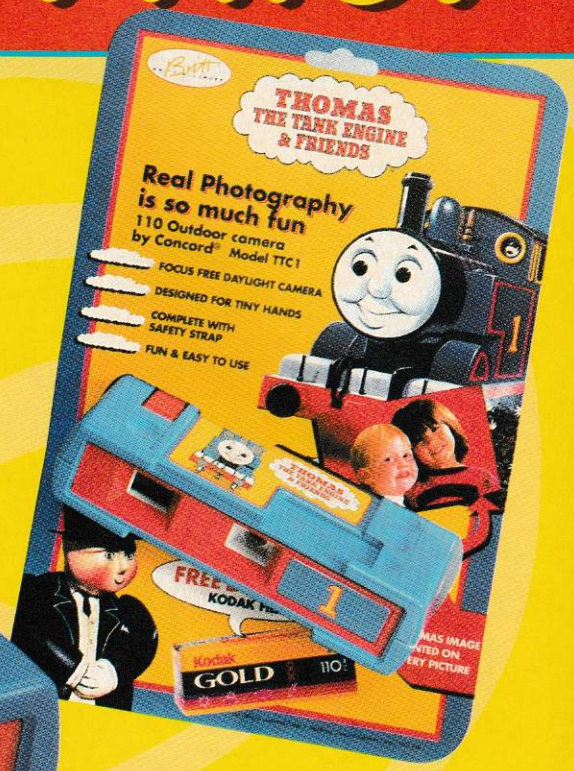
Edward is smiling but what can he see? Join the dots for something fluffy!

When you have finished colour this page!

Picture This!

We've gone snap happy with 20 fantastic Thomas Outdoor Cameras to give away!

Specially designed for tiny hands, this camera is perfect for Thomas spotting!



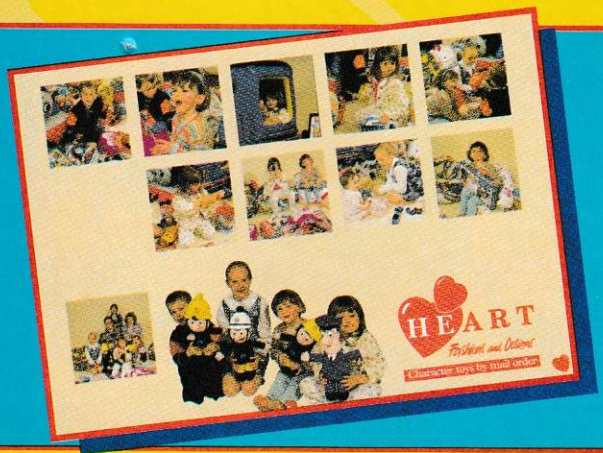
An image of Thomas prints out on every photo!

Can you spell an engine who loves having her picture taken?

D A _ S _

Send your answer, along with your name and address, to: Thomas Camera competition, Heart Fashions & Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR.

All entries must be received by 23rd April 1997.



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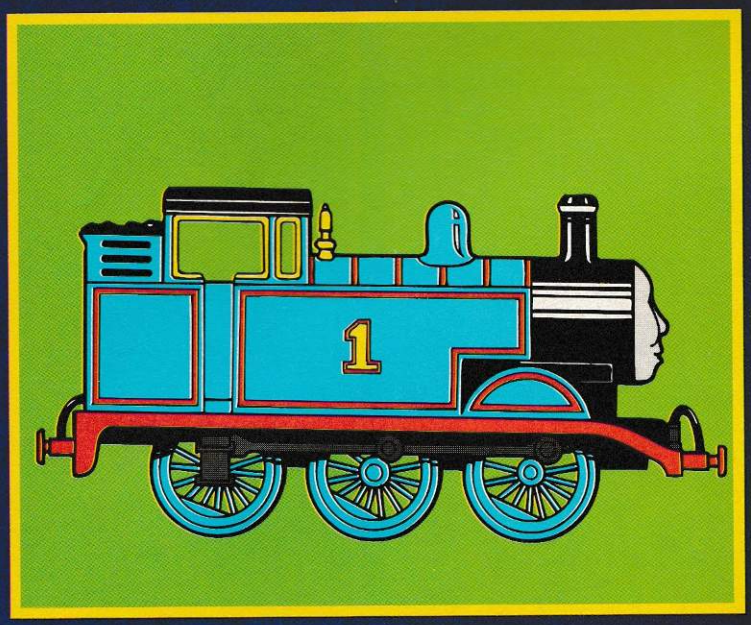
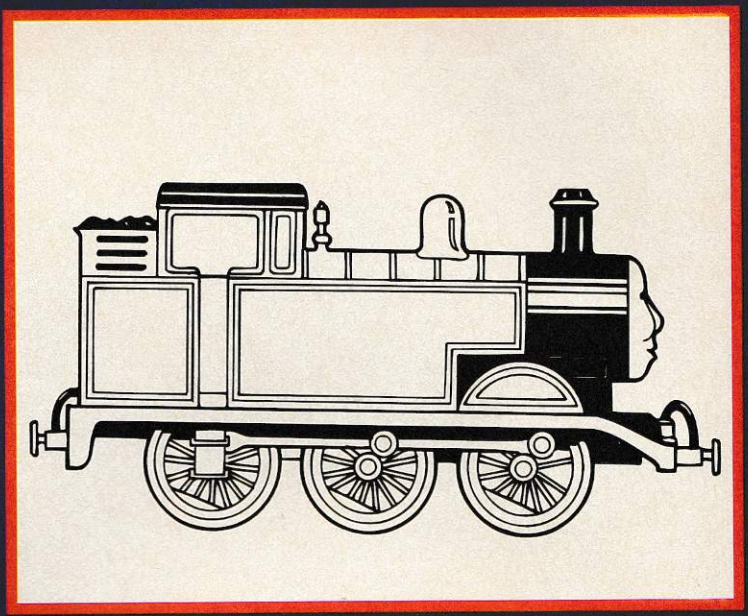
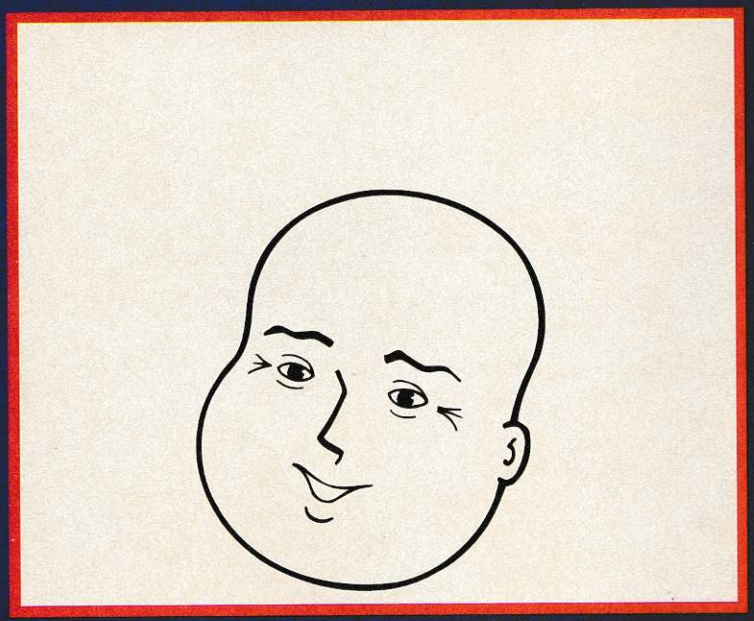
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

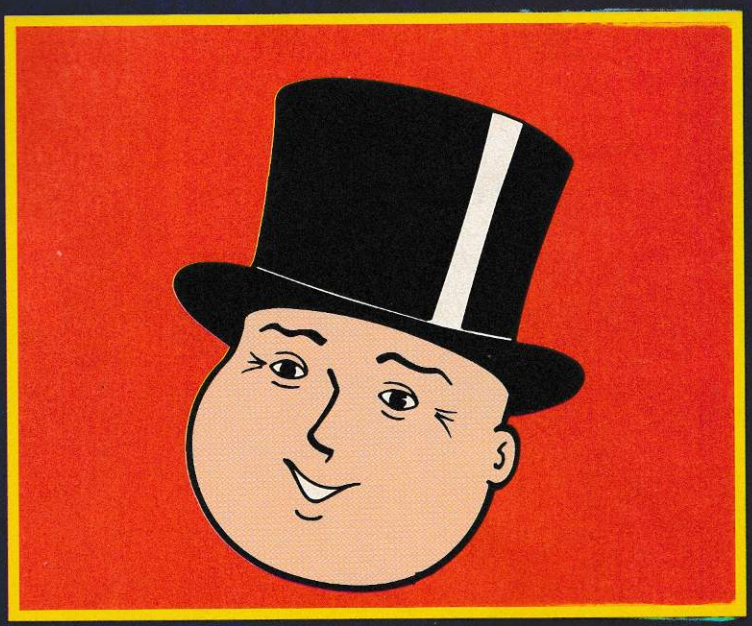
Draw & colour!

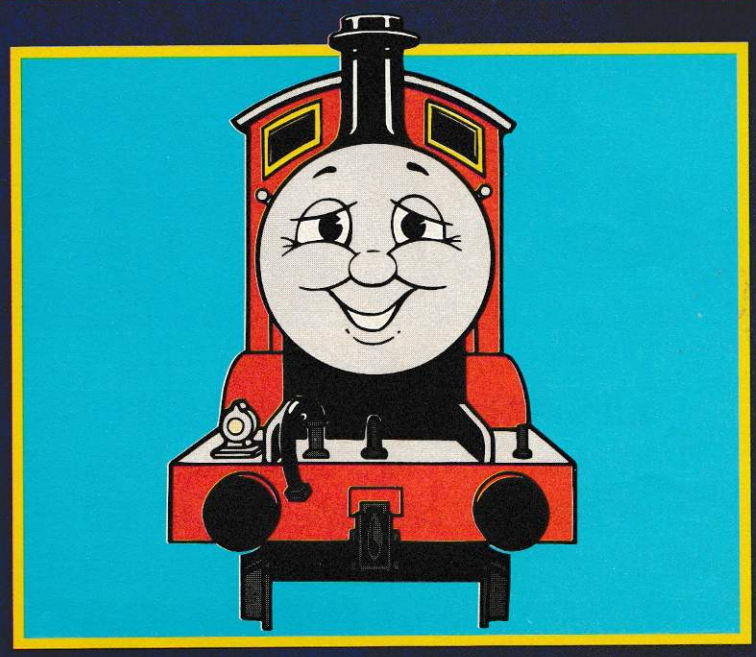
Can you see what's missing? Complete the pictures and colour them in!

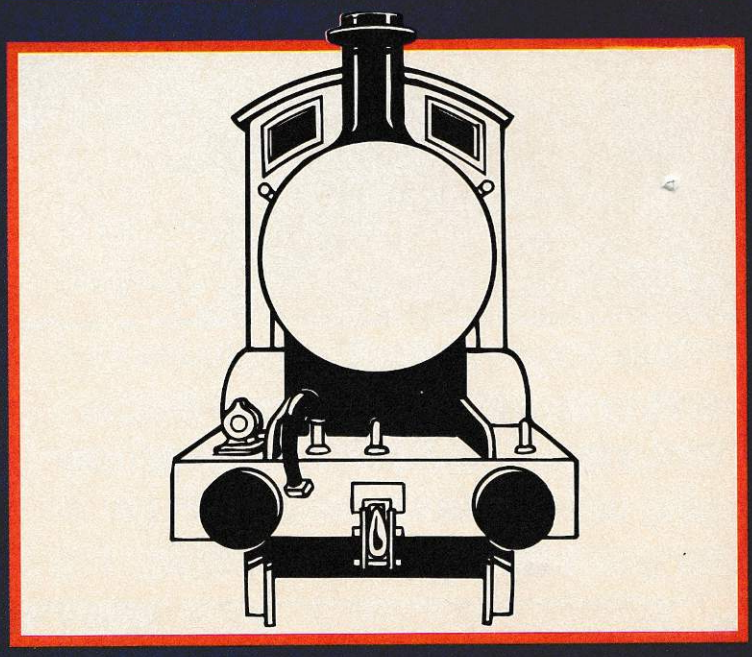




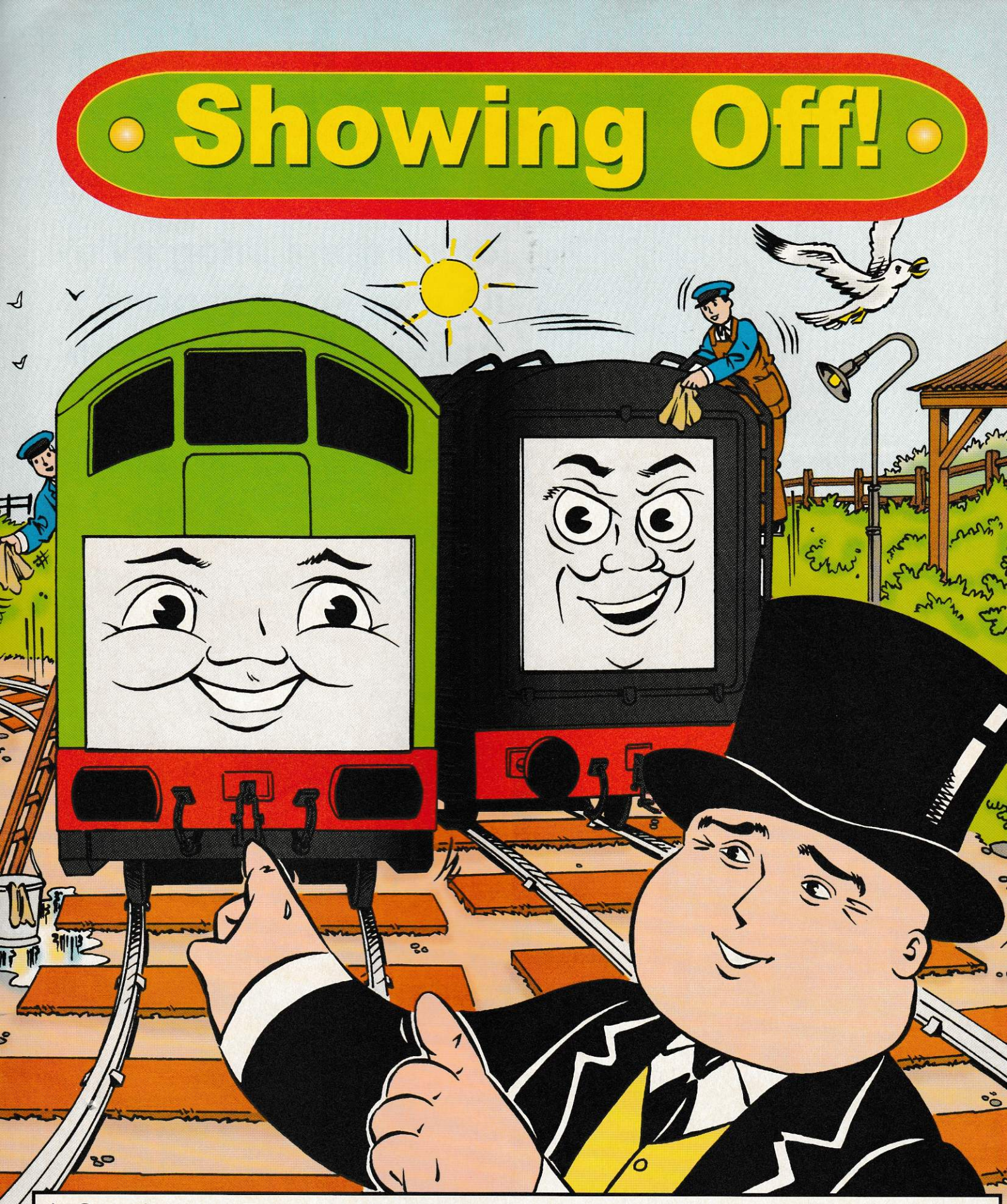








Showing Off!

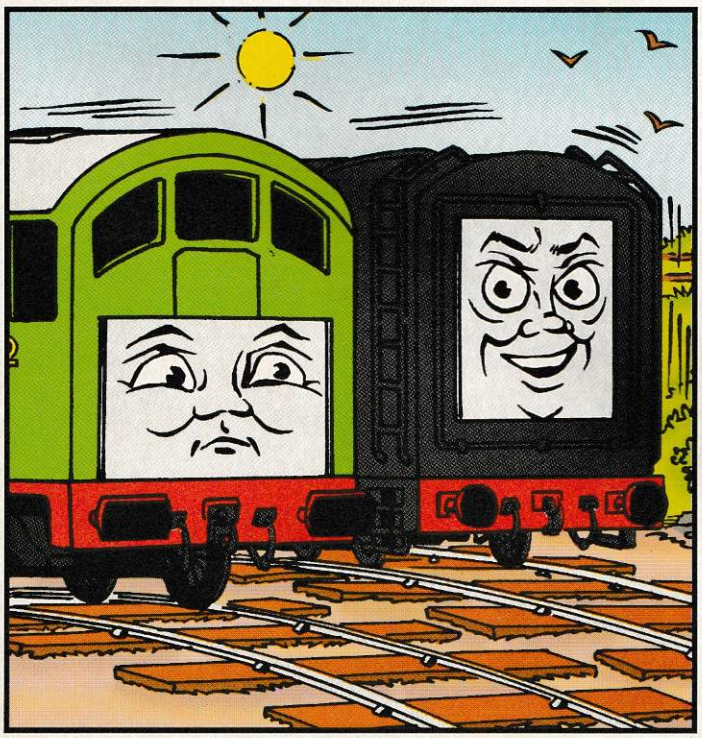


1. One day, the Fat Controller had exciting news for Diesel and BoCo. "Tomorrow, some schoolchildren are going to visit the Harbour Yard to see you working there," he said.

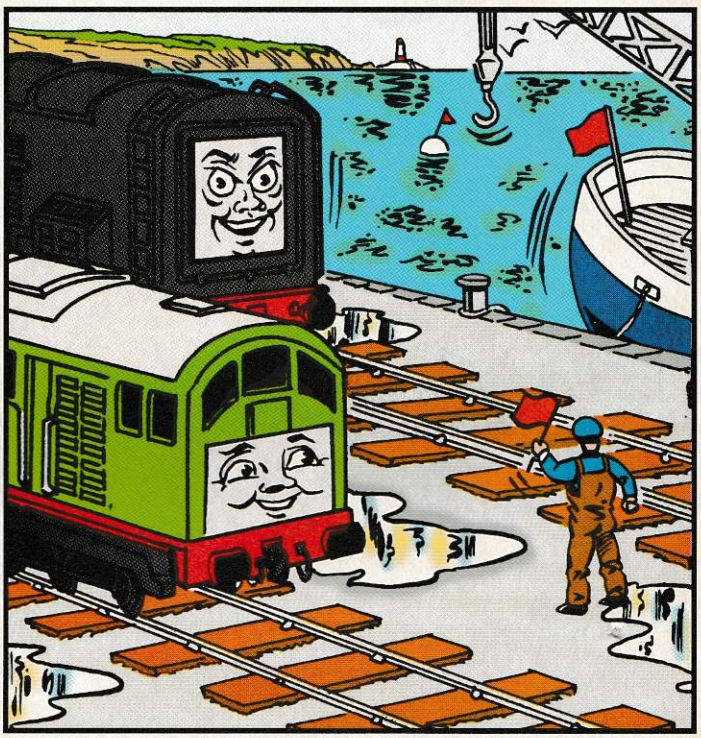
2. "The children are doing a project about the Harbour," added the Fat Controller. The two engines were soon washed and polished in the Main Station Yard to look their best!

3. "All sorts of cargo from the ships is unloaded into our trucks, so that we can shunt them into the yard ready for delivery," BoCo said. "Our job is Really Useful," he added.

4. "You mean **my** job!" laughed Diesel, in his oily voice. "I don't need your help. I can pull twice as much as you and go twice as fast!" "Oh, no, you can't!" said BoCo.



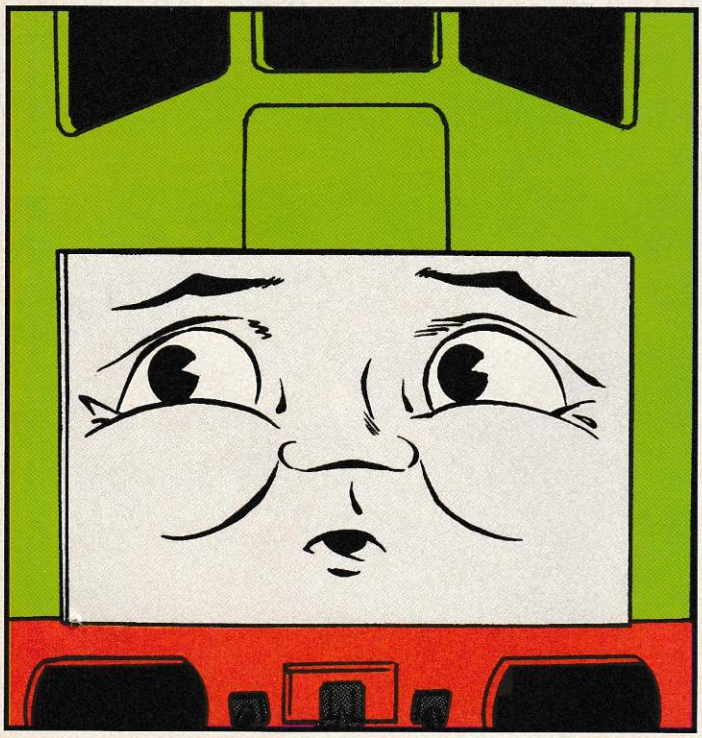
5. "You'll see!" boasted Diesel, unkindly. "So will those children. I'll put on such a show, they won't even bother to look at you." "What a show-off!" thought BoCo, unhappily.



6. Next day, both engines arrived at the Harbour Yard. A cargo ship was waiting to be unloaded. "Leave this to me, BoCo," sneered Diesel. "I'll get it done much faster on my own!"

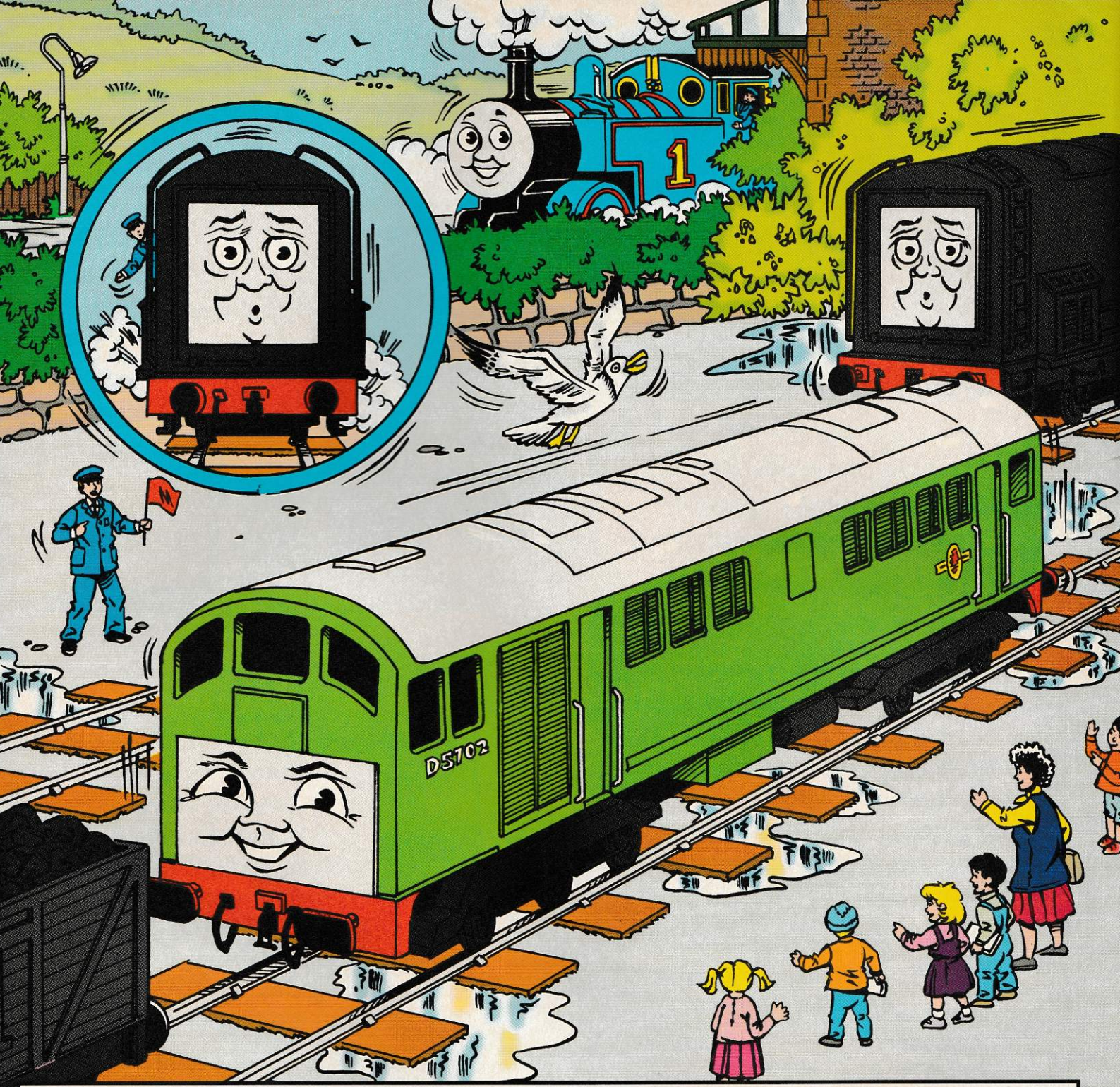
7. Diesel raced off to prove it. He was quickly coupled to a very long line of empty trucks. Before long, Thomas arrived with the class of schoolchildren and their teacher.

8. They hurried straight past poor BoCo, without even noticing him. The visitors wanted to watch the harbour crane lifting freight out of the ship's hold, into Diesel's trucks.



9. "It's not fair! Diesel's supposed to share the work, Thomas," cried BoCo. "I may as well return to the Main Station Yard. I'm no use here." Diesel was really enjoying himself.

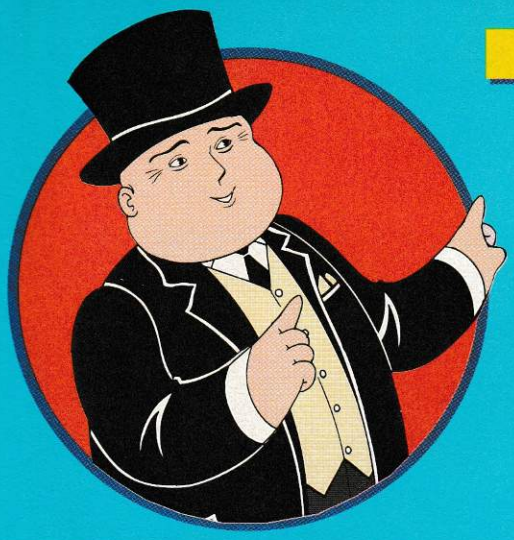
10. When all his trucks were filled, Diesel's load was very heavy indeed. "I hope BoCo can see me pull this lot!" he sneered. But Diesel could hardly move. He pulled hard!



11. Suddenly, there was a loud noise and Diesel stopped with a jolt. "I've broken down!" he grumbled. The children were very disappointed. "Now we won't see an engine at work!" they said. "Yes, you will!" exclaimed the Harbour Stationmaster. "Meet BoCo!" Friendly BoCo came rolling closer. He got Diesel's uncoupled trucks and began to shunt them along.

12. Diesel could only stand and sulk as the children watched BoCo. "He is a careful, hard-working diesel," the Harbour Stationmaster explained. The children agreed. They forgot all about Diesel. "It serves you right!" Thomas called. "I won't be showing off again," grumbled Diesel. "By breaking down, I helped BoCo become the star of the show!"

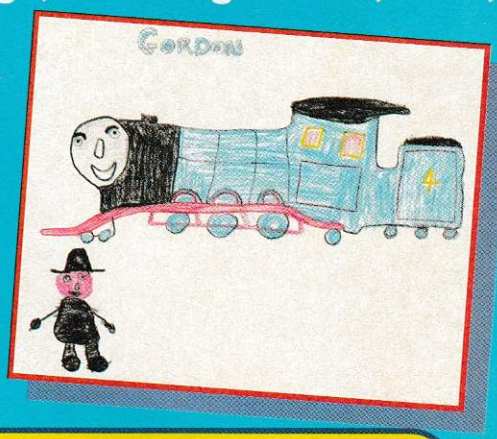
PEEP! PEEP! THE END!



The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Thanks to Addam Kendall, aged 4, for his get up and go Gordon!



Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Could you please tell me if your engines like having a bath?

love from Alexander Hall.

The engines all love wash time! We don't have a bath tub big enough for them, so we clean them with soapy bubbles and a hosepipe that sprays water everywhere! Infact, I usually end up getting wetter than they do!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

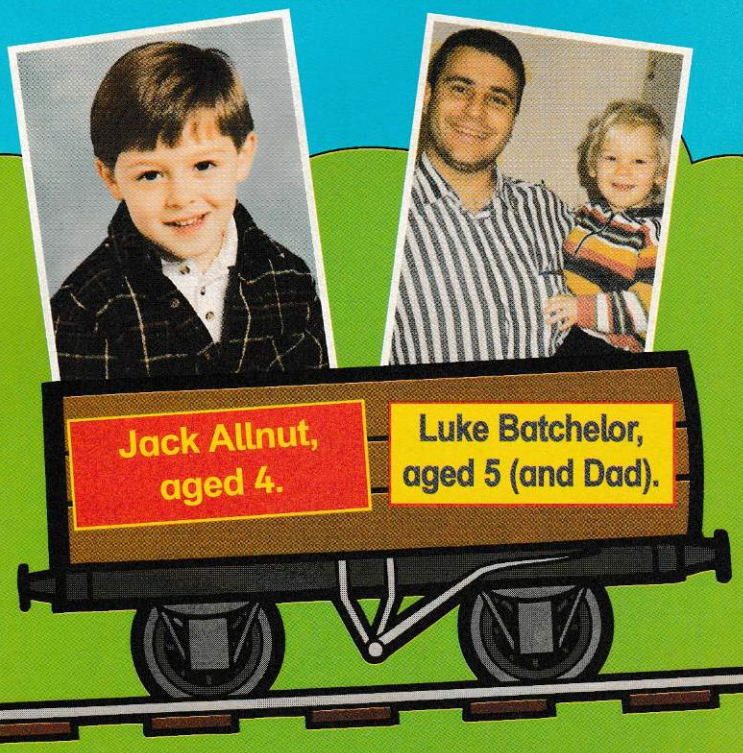
Prize Poem!

I think that Jennifer Burgess, aged 6, deserves a prize for this smashing poem!

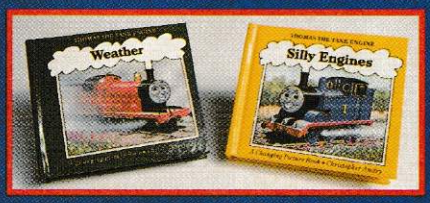
Thomas went down the track,
Clickity Clickity Clack.
It will be late before he gets back,
Clickity Clickity Clack.
Annie and Clarabel were at his back,
Clickity Clickity Clack.
Happy to be going down the track,
Clickity Clickity Clack!

Happy Birthday

To..Ryan Daly, aged 3,
Liam McNaughton, aged 4,
Kevin Holdcroft, aged 4,
& Julian Deane, aged 6.

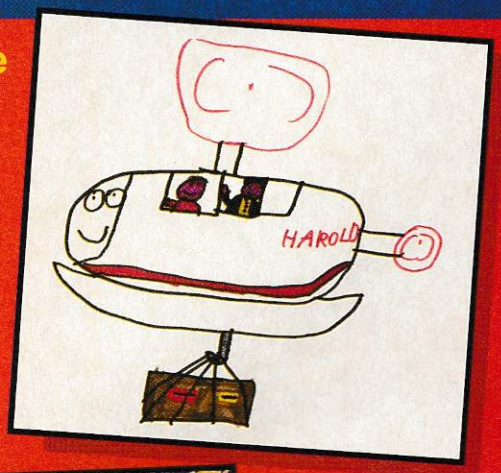


ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Can you see me waving from inside Harold in this super picture by Charlie Navarro?



Luke Blunt, aged 5, has drawn a colourful Rusty, busy working hard!

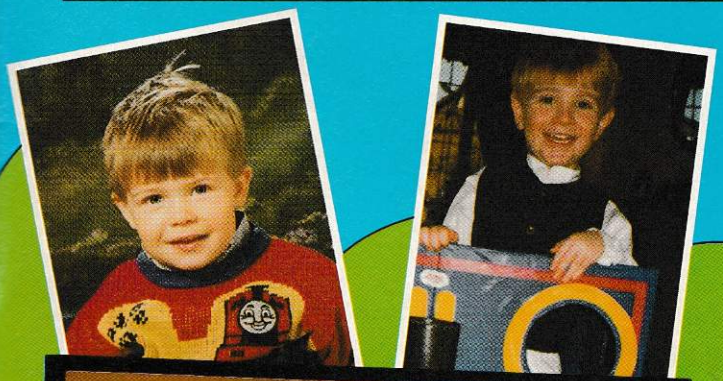
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What do you call a man with a spade on his head?
Doug!
David Stinson, aged 4.

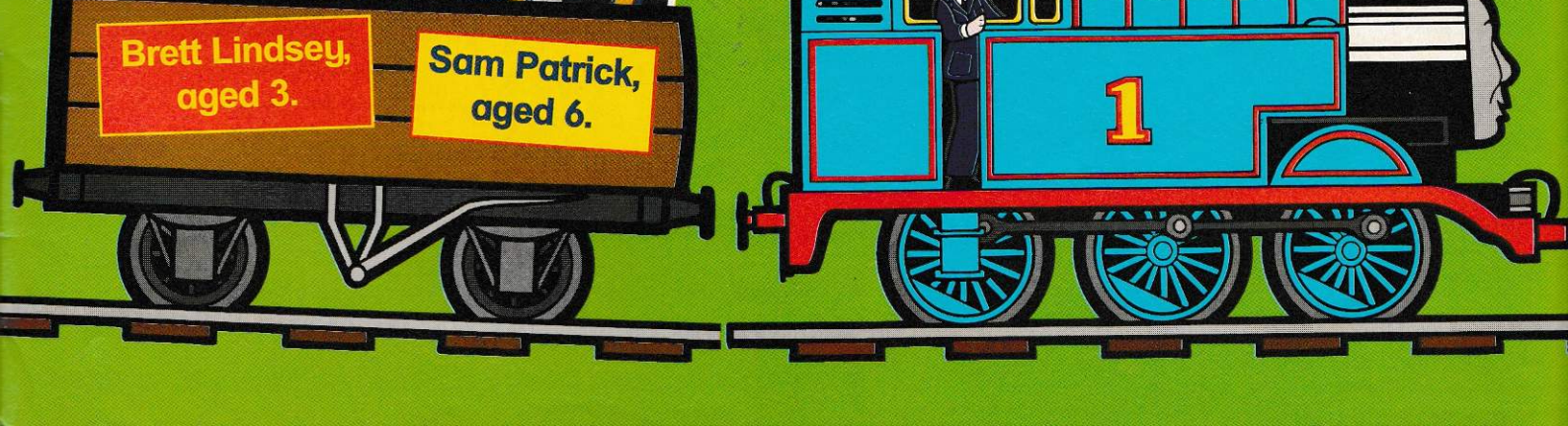
What do you call a one eyed dinosaur?
Doyouthinkhesaurus!
Stuart Mainwaring, aged 5.

What sweets do trains like best?
Chews-Chews!
Holly Pertwee, aged 3.



Brett Lindsey, aged 3.

Sam Patrick, aged 6.



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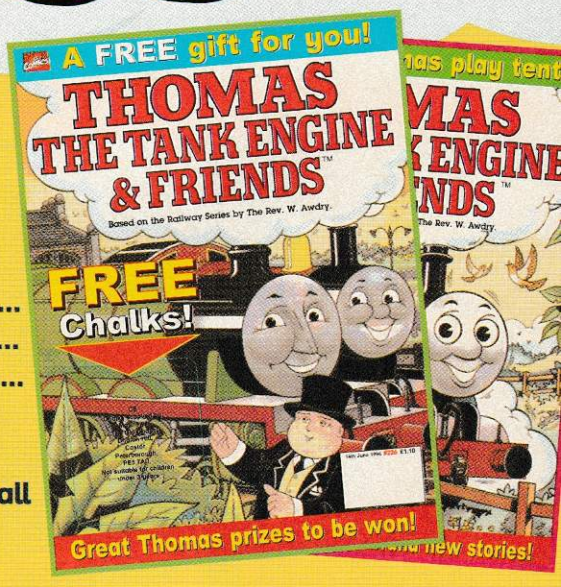

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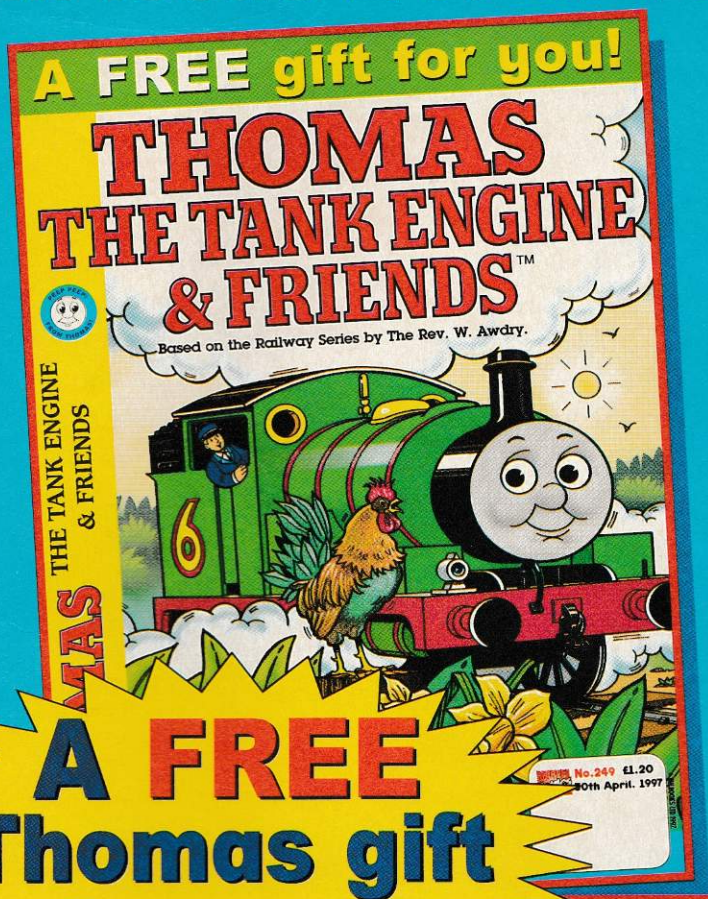

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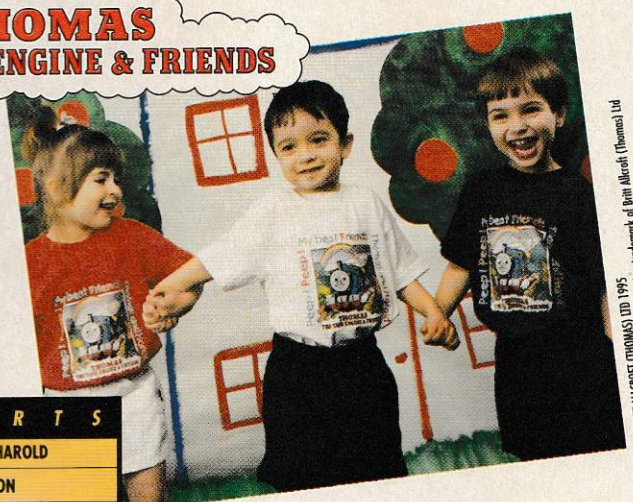

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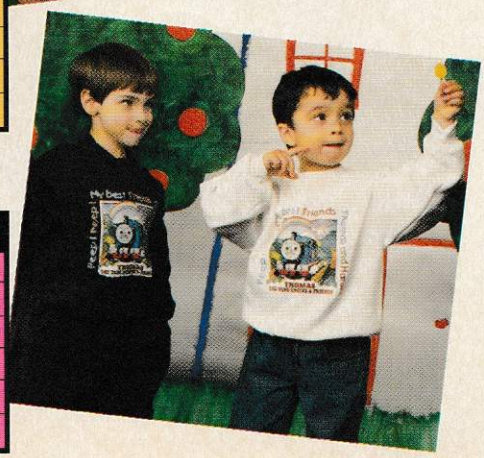

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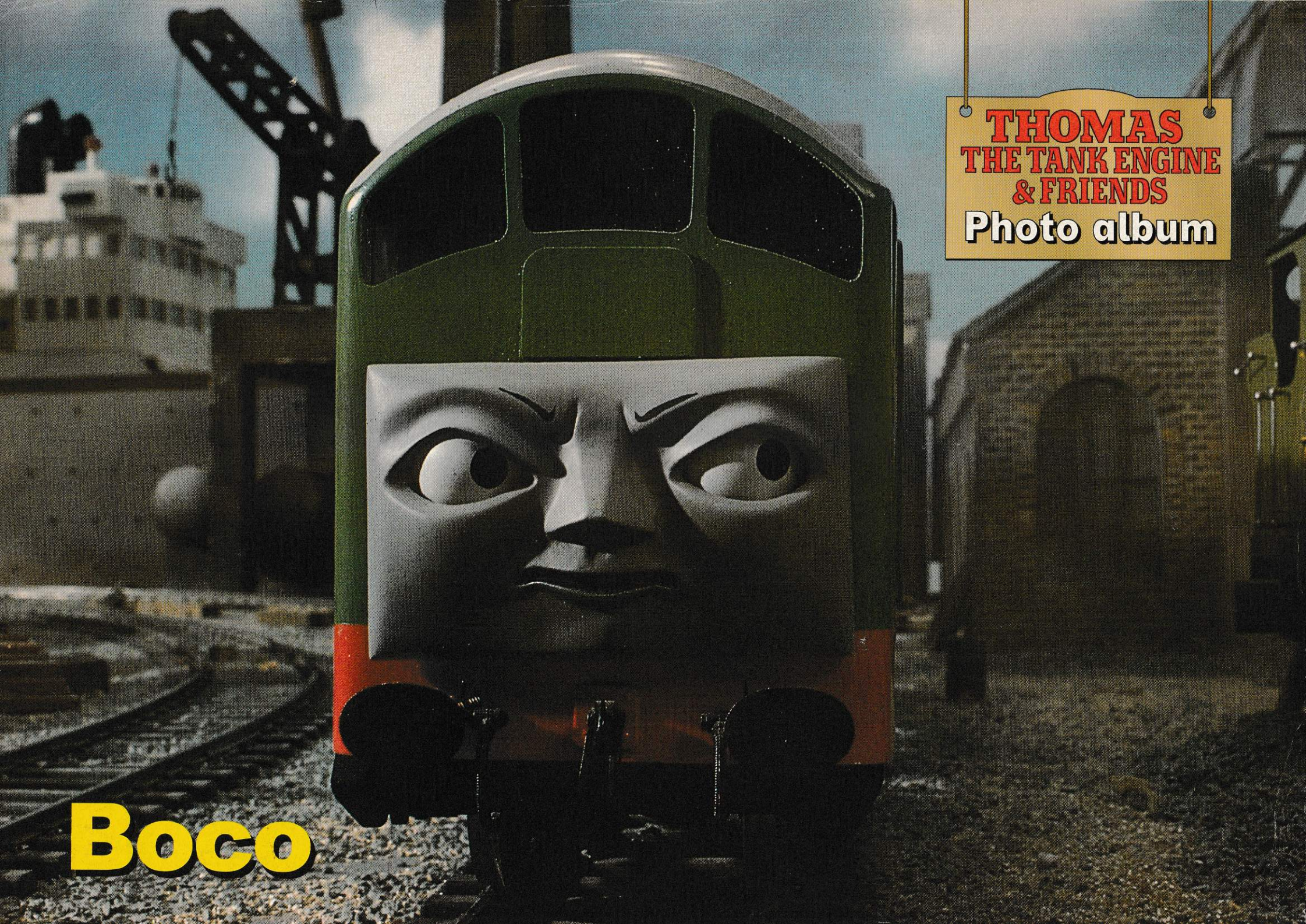
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